



TRANSITION TRACKER

The first weeks of the new administration have seen a flurry of executive actions, as shown below.

(Last updated 3/13/2017)

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

[Executive Branch Reorganization](#) Directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to propose a plan to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies or sub-agencies.

[Travel Ban](#) Temporarily suspends travel from six Muslim majority countries, as well as the U.S. refugee program. The order rescinds an earlier order by the same name that has been challenged in court, and differs from that order by exempting existing visa holders, lawful residents, and by excluding the earlier exemption of certain religious minorities.

[Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) Establishes a White House Initiative to work with agencies, private-sector employers, and others to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Requires relevant agencies to prepare an annual plan for strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to compete for grants and participate in federal programs.

[Review and Rescind Waters of the United States Rule](#) Requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers to review the final rule entitled “Clean Water rule: Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’” and propose a rule rescinding or revising that rule.

[Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda](#) Requires each agency to designate a Regulatory Reform Officer to oversee the implementation of earlier executive actions related to regulatory reform, and to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force for identifying burdensome or unnecessary regulations.

[Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers](#) Calls for legislation to define new federal crimes designed to protect law enforcement officers. Directs the attorney general to coordinate with state, tribal, and local governments to evaluate current policy regarding the protection of law enforcement officers, including recommendations for legislation or changes in grant funding.

[Task Force on Crime](#) Directs the Department of Justice to collaborate with state, tribal, and local jurisdictions by creating a Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety to evaluate current policy and develop strategies for reducing crime.

Reducing regulations

Stipulates that:

- for every new regulation, two existing regulations must be identified for elimination
- the total incremental cost of all new regulations during FY 2017 must be zero or less
- the cost of new regulations must be offset by the repeal of existing costs associated with at least two regulations

See [Issue Brief 17-06](#) for more information. A [memorandum](#) containing implementation guidance was released on February 2. It provides more detail on how agencies can comply with the executive order, and clarifies those regulations covered by the order.

Manufacturing permits and regulatory burden

Directs the Department of Commerce to conduct outreach on the impact of federal regulations on domestic manufacturing, and to develop a plan for reducing regulatory burdens and streamlining permitting.

Border and immigration enforcement Directs the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to:

- construct a wall along the southern border
- construct and staff detention facilities
- detain and/or deport immigrants in violation of immigration law
- enter into agreements with state and local governments, to assist (with their consent) in investigating and detaining immigrants

“Sanctuary cities” and deportation Directs the attorney general and secretary of DHS to ensure that local governments refusing to comply with certain immigration laws do not receive federal grants, except as deemed necessary for law enforcement. Also requires DHS to develop a list of all crimes committed by aliens and any jurisdiction that ignored or fail to honor detainers with respect to such people.

See [Issue Brief 17-05](#) for more information.

Environmental reviews for high-priority infrastructure An executive order directing agency heads, at the request of governors, to identify high-priority infrastructure projects, and establish a procedure for expediting environmental reviews for them.

Affordable Care Act repeal Directs federal agencies to give states more flexibility, and to “exercise all authority and discretion available to them to waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay” parts of the law that place a fiscal burden on states, individuals, or health care providers.

MEMORANDA

Heightened Vetting for VISAs Enhances vetting protocols for visas, directs agencies to rigorously enforce immigration laws, and expands reporting requirements related to immigration enforcement.

Fiduciary Duty Rule Directs the secretary of Labor to review and possibly rescind the Fiduciary Duty Rule, which requires financial advisors providing retirement planning advice to act in the best interest of their clients.

Federal hiring freeze Freezes the hiring of federal civilian employees. Agency heads may exempt positions deemed necessary to meet national security or public safety responsibilities.

Regulatory freeze Directs federal agencies to refrain from publishing in the *Federal Register* all regulations, until department heads have an opportunity to review and approve them. This affects accountability regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), among others.

See [Issue Brief 17-06](#) for more information.

RULEMAKING

Child support rule left in place The new administration has not delayed a new rule directing states to set realistic child support amounts in order to prevent incarceration of noncustodial parents, as it has other rules issued by the outgoing administration.