

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Executive Actions; Senate Confirmations; House to Take Action Against Obama Regulations
Friday evening's executive order on refugees stirred protest and debate across the nation and has the attention of lawmakers heading back to Capitol Hill today. Cabinet nominees are dominating Senate action again this week, with votes expected on the floor and in multiple committees on President Donald Trump's choices for leadership slots. The House tackles agency rulemaking this week, taking action to rollback regulations implemented during the waning months of the Obama administration.

Senate Floor:
Convenes at 3:00pm and at 5:00pm to resume consideration of Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State. following debate, the Senate will hold a cloture vote for Tillerson. Debate is expected to begin Tuesday for Elaine Chao for Secretary of Transportation.

House Floor:
Convenes at 2:00pm for consideration of seven lands bills under suspension. On Tuesday the House will consider 19 bills under suspension of the rules. It will then take up several resolutions disapproving a variety or Obama-era regulations. You can find the land bills and resolutions here.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on "A Growth Agenda: Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on the nomination of Ryan Zinke to be secretary of the Interior; Rick Perry to be secretary of Energy; an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 115th Congress; and ratification of subcommittee assignments for the 115th Congress. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on the nomination of Steven Mnuchin to be U.S. Treasury Secretary. Monday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Full committee meeting to vote on committee rules and subcommittee membership during the 115th Congress; and to vote on the nomination of Betsy DeVos to be Education secretary. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Obamacare Emergency: Stabilizing the Individual Health Insurance Market." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Andy Puzder to be Labor secretary. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee meeting to vote on resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and on the nomination of Mick Mulvaney to be director of the Office of Management and Budget. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 9:40 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Fencing Along the Southwest Border." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Emergency Management in Indian Country: Improving FEMA's Federal-Tribal Relationship with Indian Tribes." Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2:30 p.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on the nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to be attorney general of the United States; committee rules; and S.178, the "Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act." Tuesday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m.

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on a resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 115th Congress; committee rules; and the nomination of Linda McMahon to be administrator of the Small Business Administration. Monday, Jan. 30, Time TBA

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee hearing on developments in financial fraud affecting seniors. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2:30 p.m.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of David Shulkin to be Veterans Affairs secretary. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2:30 p.m.

House Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The State of the World: National Security Threats and Challenges." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Rescuing Americans from the Failed Health Care Law and Advancing Patient-Centered Solutions." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.
- Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee hearing on "Helping Students Succeed Through the Power of School Choice." Thursday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Medicaid Oversight: Existing Problems and Ways to Strengthen the Program." Tuesday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Strengthening Medicaid and Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable," including the "Verify Eligibility Coverage Act"; the "Close Annuity Loopholes in Medicaid Act"; and the "Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable Over Lottery Winners Act of 2017." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Patient Relief from Collapsing Health Markets." Thursday, Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m.
- Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on "The Electricity Sector's Efforts to Respond to Cybersecurity Threats." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10:15 a.m.
- Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on "Reauthorization of National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)." Thursday, Feb. 2, 10:45 a.m.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

- Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules Subcommittee hearing on "Fraud, Waste and Abuse under the Affordable Care Act." Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America." Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)

Holland Sentinel—January 26th, 2017

New Law Pushed by Fred Upton Aims to Help Find Cures for Various Diseases

Congressman Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, had a simple idea: More could be done to foster the next era of medical innovations here in America.

Latest Developments

President Signs Executive Order on Barring Refugees from Entering the United States

Last Friday, President Trump signed an executive order that indefinitely bans Syrian refugees from entering the United States and puts a four-month ban on the broader refugee program. Specifically, the order:

- indefinitely bans Syrian refugees from entering the United States;
- suspends the U.S. Refugee Program (USARP) for 120 days. During that period, the federal government can accept refugees on a case-by-case basis under specific scenarios which are outlined in the order;
- caps total refugee admission for fiscal year 2017 at 50,000 people;
- bans for 90 days all "immigrant and nonimmigrant" entries of individuals referred to in section 217(a)(12) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12);
- suspends visa issuance to countries of a "particular concern." After 60 days, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department and the Director of National Intelligence are instructed to draft a list of countries that don't comply with requests for information. Foreign nationals from those countries will be banned from entering the United States;
- expedites the completion of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for all visitors to the United States and require in-person interviews for all individuals seeking a nonimmigrant visa;
- suspends the visa interview waiver program indefinitely and review whether existing reciprocity agreements are reciprocal in practice.

The order contains language that would impact states. Those impacts include:

- Concerning the role of states and local jurisdictions and the President's decision to suspend the USARP program, the order indicates that states and local jurisdictions will be granted a role in the process of determining the placement or settlement in their jurisdictions of undocumented immigrants eligible to be admitted to the United States as refugees. To that end, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall examine existing law to determine the extent to which, consistent with applicable law, state and local jurisdictions may have greater involvement in the process of determining the placement or resettlement of refugees in their jurisdictions, and shall devise a proposal to lawfully promote such involvement.
- Concerning the role of the federal government and its responsibilities outlined in the order relating to transparency and data collection, the order states that the Secretary of State shall, within one year of the date of this order, provide a report on the estimated long-term costs of the USRAP at the Federal, State, and local levels.

To access the draft language of the executive order, click here. To view the Department of Homeland Security's fact sheet about the executive order, click here.