

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Vote-A-Rama and Confirmation Hearings
This week several top Cabinet picks for President-Elect Trump will receive confirmation hearings and Senators can expect a long night on Wednesday with vote-a-rama taking place.

The budget resolution, which sets up a repeal of the health care law, is expected to be adopted by both the House and the Senate this week. However, first Senators will have to endure vote-a-rama, which will occur once the 50 hours for debate on the Senate budget resolution runs out. At that time, Senators can continue to seek votes on amendments and votes are expected to last through the night on Wednesday. The House is expected to vote on the resolution before they leave town on Friday.

Finally, President Obama will deliver a farewell address to the nation from Chicago tomorrow. While, President-Elect Trump will hold his first press conference on Wednesday.

Senate Floor: The Senate convenes at 2 p.m. for the continued consideration of the FY 2017 budget resolution. At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will vote on an amendment from Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

House Floor: The House meets at 2 p.m. today for legislative business with votes postponed until 6:30. This evening the House will vote on five bills under suspension of the rules.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of James Mattis to be Defense Secretary in the Trump administration. Thursday, Jan. 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Benjamin Carson to be Housing and Urban Development Secretary in the Trump administration. Thursday, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Elaine Chao to be Transportation Secretary in the Trump administration. Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 10:15 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Wilbur Ross to be Commerce Secretary in the Trump administration. Thursday, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Wayne Tillerson to be Secretary of State. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 9:15 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Betsy DeVos to be Education Secretary in the Trump administration. Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of retired Gen. John Kelly to be Homeland Security Secretary in the Trump administration. Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 3:30 p.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to be Attorney General in the Trump administration. Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 9:30 a.m., 226 Dirksen Bldg. Hearing will continue on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Select Intelligence Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Trump administration. Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

The Detroit News—January 5th, 2017
Michigan Lawmakers Regain Influence in Panel Roles
New committee assignments are rolling out for members of Congress, and early signs indicate the Michigan delegation is starting to regain some influence, particularly through appointments to the powerful House committees on Appropriations as well as Energy and Commerce

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)
MLive—January 6th, 2017
U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga to Chair Subcommittee that Oversees the SEC
A West Michigan congressman with designs on removing Dodd-Frank banking regulations will serve as chairman of a financial services subcommittee for the 115th Congress.

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)

Herald Palladium—January 7th, 2017

Upton to Chair Subcommittee on Energy

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, has been named chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy for the Committee on Energy and Commerce by the committee's new chairman, Greg Walden, Upton's office reported.

Latest Developments

House Introduces Bill to Delay DOL Fiduciary Duty Rule

Friday, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) introduced a bill that would delay the implementation of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Fiduciary Duty rule by two years. Currently, the rule is set to take effect on a phased-in basis beginning April 2017. The DOL Fiduciary Duty rule would require financial advisors who provide advice on retirement planning to act solely in the "best interest" of their clients. This replaces the current standard of care whereby advisors could recommend products "suitable" for their clients, but not necessarily in their best interest. The final DOL rule, which applies to financial advice about retirement plans such as a 401(k) or individual retirement account, also narrowed the list of excluded financial products for retirement accounts and loosened fee disclosure requirements.

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