

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Government Funding, Tax Bill, CHIP, Concealed Carry for Firearms
Government funding expires at the conclusion of the day on Friday. This week, Congress is expected to consider a short-term Continuing Resolution that would fund the government through December 22nd. The Continuing Resolution could also include temporary funding, through December 31st, for the now-expired Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with a long-term deal expected later this month. Federal funding for CHIP has been depleted in a number of states with more expected to face fiscal difficulties with the program early in 2018.

Today, the House votes on a motion to go to conference on the tax bill, which passed the Senate shortly before 2 a.m. on Saturday with a House-passed version waiting to be reconciled. The Senate is expected to follow suite later this week.

Later this week, the House is expected to consider H.R. 38, a bill to provide a means by which nonresidents of a state whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the state, regardless of that state's qualification requirements.

House: The House convenes at 6 p.m. for a motion to go to conference on the tax bill and a Democratic motion to instruct conferees. Votes are expected to begin at 6:30 p.m. ET.

Senate: The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. today to resume consideration of the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to be secretary of Homeland Security. A vote is expected at 5:30 p.m. ET.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in America: Prevention, Treatment & Recovery." Tuesday, December 5 at 10 a.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Department of Defense Acquisition Reform Efforts." Witnesses include the Honorable Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Honorable Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Richard V.

Spencer, Secretary of the Navy and the Honorable Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force. Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Executive session to consider the nomination of The Honorable Jerome H. Powell to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act. Tuesday, December 5 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing to consider below nominations. Tuesday, December 5 at 10 a.m.
    - Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Water and Science)
    - Dr. Linda Capuano to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration
- Energy Subcommittee hearing to receive testimony on below bills. Tuesday, December 5 at 2:30 p.m.
    - S. 1336, Reliable Investment in Vital Energy Reauthorization Act
    - S. 1455, Energy Storage Goals and Demonstration Projects Act
    - S. 1563, Rare Earth Element Advanced Coal Technologies Act
    - S. 1851, Advancing Grid Storage Act
    - S. 1876, Reducing the Cost of Energy Storage Act
    - S. 1981, Small Scale LNG Access Act
    - S. 2030, Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee hearing on "Challenges Facing Superfund and Waste Cleanup Efforts Following Natural Disasters." Wednesday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Business meeting to consider below legislation and nominations. Tuesday, December 5 at 2:30 p.m.
    - S.1118, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017, with an amendment
    - S.1901, LEED Act, Leverage to Enhance Effective Diplomacy Act of 2017, with an amendment
    - S.447, Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act of 2017, with an amendment
    - S.Res.150, A resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance
    - S.Res.139, A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights
    - Eric M. Ueland to be Under Secretary of State (Management)
    - James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg

- Full committee hearing on "The President, Congress, and Shared Authority Over International Accords." Tuesday, December 5, immediately following the business meeting
- Near Eastern, South, and Central Asian Affairs and Counterterrorism Subcommittee hearing on "Beyond ISIS: Countering Terrorism, Radicalization, and Promoting Stability in North Africa." Witnesses include the Honorable Nathan Sales, Ambassador-At-Large, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State and The Honorable David Satterfield, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Wednesday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing to consider below nominations. Tuesday, December 5 at 10 a.m.
    - Kenneth Marcus to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education
    - Johnny Collett to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education
    - Scott Mugno to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor
    - William Beach, Ph.D to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor
- Full committee hearing on "Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Progress and the Path Forward for Medical Innovation." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Adapting to Defend the Homeland Against the Evolving International Terrorist Threat." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee

- Business meeting to consider S. 1870, the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment (SURVIVE) Act. Wednesday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m.
- Legislative hearing to receive testimony on S. 664, Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017, and S. 1770, Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Wednesday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Firearm Accessory Regulation and Enforcing Federal and State Reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Business meeting to consider below nominations. Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.
    - Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit
    - James C. Ho to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit
    - Don R. Willett to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit
    - Terry A. Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana
    - Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama
    - Mark Saalfield Norris, Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee
    - Claria Horn Boom to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky
    - John W. Broomes to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas
    - Rebecca Grady Jennings to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky

- Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky

Senate Special Committee on Aging

- Full committee hearing on "America's Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges." Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.

House Administration Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Congressional Workplace: Examining Reforms to the Congressional Accountability Act." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on "Workplace Leave Policies: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers and Working Families." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Environment Subcommittee hearing on "The Mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Role of the Department of Energy in Energy Sector Cybersecurity." Witnesses include The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator, EPA. Friday, December 8 at 9 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on "Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform, Part IV." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Office of Financial Research." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.
- Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on "Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part II." Thursday, December 7 at 2 p.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on "Advancing Human Rights to Combat Extremism." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats Subcommittee hearing on "Brexit: A Negotiation Update." Wednesday, December 6 at 2 p.m.
- Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on "U.S. Policy Toward Tibet: Access, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights." Wednesday, December 6 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Counterterrorism Efforts in Africa." Thursday, December 7 at 9:30 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Department of Homeland Security's Efforts to Coutner Weapons of Mass Destruction." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation." Witnesses include The Honorable Christopher, Director, FBI. Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing on H.R.4465, Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017. Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Century." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.
- Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on below legislation. Thursday, December 7 at 2 p.m.
    - H.R. 805, Tulare Youth Recreation and Women's History Enhancement Act
    - H.R. 1349, to amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and Game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas and for other purposes
    - H.R. 3371, Modoc County Land Transfer and Economic Development Act of 2017
    - H.R. 3961, Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2017

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

- Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of IT and Cybersecurity at the Department of Veterans Affairs." Thursday, December 7 at 2 p.m.

House Rules Committee

- Full committee meeting on H.R. 38, Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, and H.J. Res. __, Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018. Tuesday, December 5 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee meeting on H.R. 477, Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2017, and H.R. 3971, Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017. Wednesday, December 6 at 3 p.m.

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

- Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on "From Lab to Market: A Review of NSF Innovation Corps." Wednesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
- Space Subcommittee hearing on "NASA's Next Four Large Telescopes." Wednesday, December 6 at 2 p.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on "Emerging Technologies in the Trucking Industry." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "New Names, Same Problems: The VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program." Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Sander Levin (MI-09)

Detroit Free Press—December 2nd, 2017

U.S. Rep. Sander Levin will retire from Congress when term ends next year

After 35 years in Congress, U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Royal Oak, has decided it's time for a different adventure.

Latest Developments

Senate Passes Tax Reform

On Saturday morning the Senate voted 51-49 to pass S. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The $1.5 trillion comprehensive tax reform proposal makes significant changes to the federal tax code governing individuals, corporations, and international tax policy. The bill repeals the state and local tax (SALT) deduction on sales and income tax and repeals the ability of state and local governments to advance refund municipal bonds. During consideration of the bill, an amendment offered by Sen. Cardin to use repatriation revenue to fund infrastructure was defeated 43-57. The bill now moves to a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Representatives Thompson and Grijalva Introduce Alternative Sportsmen's Legislation

Last week Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), the former chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced the Authorizing Critical Conservation for Sportsmen and Sportswomen (ACCESS) Act (H.R. 4489). The bill would expand access on public lands for recreational activities including hunting and fishing; reauthorize programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act; and promote aquatic ecosystem conservation. H.R. 4489 is an alternative to H.R. 3668, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (SHARE Act), which includes provisions that would loosen gun restrictions. The SHARE Act passed the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 22 to 13 in September.

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