

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Defense Spending and Health Care Repeal

The Senate will convene today to vote on H.J. Res. 37, which would rescind a rule requiring prospective federal contractors to disclose labor violations. The Senate will then vote on a motion to proceed a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 44) to nullify the Bureau of Land Management.

On Wednesday the House will begin work to complete appropriations for the current fiscal year with the consideration of a $583.7 billion defense spending bill, H.R. 1301. The current appropriations stop gap funding bill runs through April 28th. The House also plans to vote this week on three measures (H.R. 720, H.R. 985, and H.R. 725) designed to limit class actions and punish frivolous lawsuits.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee, and possibly the House Ways and Means Committee are expected to mark up a replacement to the Affordable Care Act. Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) told the Republican conference last week that the goal is to get the Senate legislation on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act in the next three weeks.

Senate Floor: The Senate convenes at 2 p.m. to consider HJ Res. 37 with votes delayed until 6 p.m.

House Floor: The House convenes for a pro forma session today. The House will meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow for the consideration of seven bills under suspension of the rules.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on funding our nation's transportation infrastructure needs. Wednesday, March 8, 10 a.m.
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on saving lives through medical research. Wednesday, March 8, 10:30 a.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee **closed** hearing on the nomination of Army Lt. Gen. Herbert McMaster Jr. for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and to be national security advisor. Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Cybersecurity Subcommittee **closed** briefing on "Cybersecurity from the Defense Science Board." Wednesday, March 8, 2:30 p.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission." Wednesday, March 8, 10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on S.512, "Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act." Wednesday, March 8, 10 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee meeting to vote on the nomination of David Friedman to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Israel. Thursday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Elaine Duke to be deputy Homeland Security secretary. Wednesday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Rod Rosenstein to be deputy attorney general; and Rachel Brand to be associate attorney general. Tuesday, March 7, 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of S.419, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program; and to vote on the nominations of Charles Breyer and Danny Reeves to be members of the United States Sentencing Commission. Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.

House Agriculture Committee

- Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee hearing on "The Next Farm Bill: Rural Development and Energy Programs." Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.
- Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research Subcommittee hearing on "The Next Farm Bill: Specialty Crops." Thursday, March 9, 2 p.m.

House Appropriations Committee

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Management Challenges at the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the Social Security Administration (SSA): Views from the Inspectors General." Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on "Flood Insurance Reform: FEMA's Perspective." Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing on "The Current State of DHS Private Sector Engagement for Cybersecurity." Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Coordinating Federal Cybersecurity Resources for Small Businesses." Wednesday, March 8, 11 a.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Aviation Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Air Transportation in the United States in the 21st Century." Wednesday, March 8, 10 a.m.
- Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: The Role of Federal Agencies in Water Infrastructure." Thursday, March 9, 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Michigan Radio—March 3rd, 2017

Michigan's Congressional Delegation Pushes Back Against Proposed Great Lakes Funding Cut

Michigan's congressional delegation is showing bi-partisan opposition to reports the Trump administration plans to slash funding for the Great Lakes.

Latest Developments

State Comments on FEMA Disaster Deductible Proposal (SANPRM)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks additional comments on its proposal to establish a disaster deductible for states in lieu of raising the thresholds for receiving federal disaster assistance (see Federal Register Notice: FEMA 2016-0003). The Homeland Security and Public Safety (HSPS) Committee is coordinating a response to the notice on behalf of governors' offices.

Background:

FEMA is seeking comment on all aspects of the deductible concept, including: the process and scope for calculating the deductible, the structure and type of credits that could be used to offset the deductible, opportunities to use the program to incentivize change, and potential implementation challenges. The HSPS Committee is asking governors offices to provide an executive-level, enterprise-wide perspective from your state in these areas.

Resources:

- A memo which gives additional guidance on providing your state's response and background information on the disaster deductible concept.
- A PDF version of the SANPRM in the Federal Register.
- A letter sent to FEMA last year from HSPS Committee leadership and accompanying memo with comments in response to FEMA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM). The ANPRM was released in March 2016. (see Federal Register Notice: FEMA 2016-00997).