

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Irma, NDAA and Federal Spending to Dominate the Week

In the midst of Hurricane Irma battering Florida and other southern states bracing for impact, Congress will return to the Capitol piecemeal over the next two days.

Last week, Senate Majority Leader McConnell filed a motion to limit debate on proceeding to a $680 billion fiscal defense authorization bill. This week, the Senate is expected to spend the majority of the week considering that bill. Amendment topics could include America's response to North Korea's nuclear provocation, recent proposed changes to the military's policy regarding transgender individuals and future military base closures.

Last week, Congress passed a three-month debt limit extension, continuing resolution and $15.25 billion hurricane relief package following a deal struck by the President, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi. The House passed the measure 316-90 after the Senate voted 80-17 to advance the bill. Trump signed the legislation into law on Friday. The deal gives the House breathing room as they consider an eight bill spending package. The package would fund agencies related to agriculture; commerce, justice and science; financial services and general government; homeland security; interior; labor, health and human services and education; state and foreign operations; and transportation, housing and urban development. The House worked through hundreds of amendments to these bills last week and is expected to work through many more amendments this week.

Senate Floor: Convenes at 3 p.m. and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to a fiscal defense authorization bill with a vote on the measure taking place at 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: The House floor schedule is in flux because of member absences due to Hurricane Irma. Votes will no longer take place today and could be delayed beyond Tuesday depending on how the Hurricane emergency evolves.

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Nutrition Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill.” Thursday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard hearing on "Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges." Tuesday, September 12 at 2:30 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Transportation Innovation: Automated Trucks and Our Nation's Highways." Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Fostering Innovation: Contributions of the Department of Energy's National Laboratories." Tuesday, September 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Expanding and Accelerating the Deployment and Use of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration." Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Health Care: Issues Impacting Cost and Coverage." Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Individual Tax Reform." Thursday, September 14 at 10 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Eric M. Ueland to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), The Honorable John R. Bass to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Justin Hicks Siberell to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain and J. Steven Dowd to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years. Tuesday, September 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing on "Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Flexibility." Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Health Care Stakeholders." Thursday, September 14 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Daniel J. Kaniewski to be Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and of Jonathan Pittman to be an Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Tuesday, September 12 at 10:15 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Long-term Impact of Immigration: Exploring Reforms to our Nation's Guest Worker Programs and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and their Potential Impact on the American Economy and Local Communities." Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Ralph R. Erickson to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Donald C. Coggins, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Dabney Langhorne Friedrich, to be United States District Judge for

the District of Columbia, Stephen S. Schwartz, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims and Robert J. Higdon, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Thursday, September 14 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Energy Subcommittee hearing on "Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry." Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.
- Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on "21st Century Trade Barriers: Protectionist Cross Border Data Flow Policy's Impact on U.S. Jobs." Tuesday, September 12 at 10:15 a.m.
- Environment Subcommittee hearing on "Big Relief for Small Business: Legislation Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Small Manufacturers and Other Job Creators." Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Modernizing FDA's Regulation of Over-the-Counter Drugs." Wednesday, September 13 at 10:15 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Supporting Tomorrow's Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act." Thursday, September 14 at 10 a.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on "Occupational Licensing: Regulation and Competition." Tuesday, September 12 at 2 p.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on the "SHARE Act." Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of H.R. 210 "Native American Energy Act," H.R. 424 "Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017," H.R. 717 "Listing Reform Act," H.R. 1274 "State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act," H.R. 2603 "SAVES Act," H.R. 3131 "Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act" and H.R. 3668 "SHARE Act." Tuesday, September 12 at 4 p.m.
- Full committee markup continued (see above). Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Serving Small Businesses: Examining the Effectiveness of HUBZone Reforms." Wednesday, September 13 at 11 a.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders' Perspectives." Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.
- Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Rail Stakeholders' Perspectives." Tuesday, September 12 at 2:30 p.m.
- Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Economic Development Stakeholders' Perspectives." Wednesday, September 13 at 10 a.m.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Oversight Committee hearing on "Reforming How the IRS Resolves Taxpayer Disputes." Wednesday, September 13 at 2 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)
The Detroit News—September 6th, 2017
House Oks Bill to Allow Thousands of Self-Driving Cars
Automakers would each be allowed to operate up to 100,000 self-driving cars per year on U.S. roads, and states would be prevented from passing laws to prevent them from doing so under a bill that was approved Wednesday by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Dave Trott (MI-11)
The Detroit News—September 11th, 2017
Rep. Dave Trott is Retiring from U.S. House
Republican Rep. Dave Trott of Birmingham said Monday that he will retire from Congress at the end of his second term and return to the private sector.

Latest Developments

USFS Submits Plan to Meet FY17 Fire Suppression Needs
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is projecting a $300 million shortfall for fire suppression activities in FY17. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has submitted a fire transfer strategy to transfer funds from forest management programs to fill gaps in fire suppression through the end of September, a process known as "fire borrowing". The current federal budgeting practice relies on a 10-year average suppression costs and no longer provides accurate funding estimates. USFS spends about 55 percent of its budget on fire suppression, up from 15 percent a decade ago, and funding disruptions undermine federal and state long-term wildfire mitigation strategies. Secretary Perdue continues to call for congressional action to address the funding gap and has had conversations with OMB Director Mick Mulvaney. In June, Reps. Simpson (R-ID) and Schrader (D-OR) reintroduced the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017 (H.R. 2862) which would also address "fire borrowing" as well as ensure stable resources for the U.S. Forest Service. The House Natural Resource Committee passed, by voice vote, Rep. Westerman's (R-AR) H.R. 2936 the "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017" which would provide more active management of federal forest lands. In the Senate this July, Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Brown (D-OH) included a National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill (S. 1571) that contains a comprehensive change for funding wildfire suppression, and would adjust the Stafford Act's Disaster Relief Fund calculation to include wildfire suppression, subject to conditions.