

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Tax and Nomination hearings, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding

The Senate is expected to pass the annual NDAA defense policy bill today. Senate panels will hold hearings on taxes and nominations. Funding for CHIP expires at the end of this month. The Senate has announced a five year agreement but no text has been released. The House has yet to reach an agreement on a CHIP funding bill and it is unclear whether they will accept the Senate's five year plan.

House: Convenes at 2 p.m. for prof forma session. Members are out of town this week.

Senate: Convenes at 3 p.m. to resume consideration of the NDAA. at 5:30pm the chamber is expected to vote in cloture. If cloture is invoked, the Senate is expected to immediately take a vote for final passage. Leader McConnell has also set a cloture vote for the nomination of Noel Francisco to be solicitor general.

Although the Senate has a short work period this week, expect it to be very busy in health care policy. Senate HELP Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray are still working to find a compromise for their market stabilization health bill. Their goal is to pass something before September 27, giving them little time to find an agreement. Also, watch for the Graham/Cassidy bill. The bill still does not have the support needed to pass the Senate. However, Senator McConnell asked the CBO to score the bill signaling that he is considering taking up the bill. Given the budget reconciliation instructions expire on September 30, the Senate would have two short weeks to pass the Cassidy/Graham bill using reconciliation. This would also take crucial floor time away from other must pass legislation like CHIP funding.

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Stephen Censky to be deputy Agriculture secretary; and Ted McKinney to be Agriculture undersecretary for trade and foreign agriculture affairs. Tuesday, September 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on the nominations of Richard Glick to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; David Jonas to be Energy Department general counsel; Kevin McIntyre to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Joseph Balash

to be assistant Interior secretary for land and minerals management; and Ryan Douglas Nelson to be Interior Department solicitor. Tuesday, September 19 at 9:30 a.m., 366 Dirksen Bldg.

- Full committee hearing on the vegetation management requirements for electricity assets located on federal lands and to receive testimony on Section 2310 of S.1460, the "Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017," and H.R.1873, the "Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act." Tuesday, September 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Michael Dourson to be assistant EPA administrator; Matthew Leopold to be assistant EPA administrator; David Ross to be assistant EPA administrator; William Wehrum to be assistant EPA administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Wednesday, September 20 at 10 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Business Tax Reform." Tuesday, September 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Carlos G. Muniz to be General Counsel for Department of Education, Janet Dhillon to be Member Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and upon confirmation designated Chair and Daniel Gade, Ph.D. to be Member Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Tuesday, September 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Allison H. Eid to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Annemarie Carney Axon to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Michael Lawrence Brown to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Thomas Alvin Farr to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina and William M. Ray, II to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. Wednesday, September 20 at 10 a.m.

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Disaster Preparedness and Response: The Special Needs of Older Americans.” Wednesday, September 20 at 9 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)

MLive—September 14th, 2017

Great Lakes Funding Included in U.S. House Federal Budget Bill

Funding for Great Lakes restoration was approved by the U.S. House Thursday as part of its $1.2 trillion spending plan for the federal government next year.

Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)

The Detroit News—September 13th, 2017

House OKs Controls on Seizing Suspected Crime Assets

In a rebuke to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the Republican-led House on Tuesday approved measures sponsored by Michigan members to restrict his directive expanding the government's ability to confiscate the assets of criminal suspects.

Latest Developments

DOE Seeks Stakeholder Input for Net Metering Study

On Friday the Department of Energy (DOE) published a Request for Information (RFI) seeking stakeholder input on previous and current studies on the costs and benefits of net metering. Specifically, the DOE requests certain types of input on net energy metering (NEM) cost-benefit studies, including: motivations and the policy context for NEM cost-benefit studies, categories of costs and benefits, methodological elements that can vary significantly when quantifying factors in a benefit-cost analysis, and fundamental drivers and underlying market conditions. The input will be included in the DOE's recently announced study on the costs and benefits of net metering to utilities, ratepayers, and the electrical grid as part of the agency's Grid Modernization Initiative. The comments are due before October 30, 2016, and may submit on the Federal Register, by email, or mail; further instructions on submission can be found here.

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