

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: State of the Union, Federal Reserve, Iran Sanctions
The Senate will begin its 2016 session with a vote on the nomination of Luis Felipe Restrepo as judge for the 3rd Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. The chamber is expected to take a cloture vote on a bill (S. 2232) requiring a Government Accountability Office audit of the Federal Reserve.

The House is expected to consider nine bills under suspension of the rules, including a measure (S. 142) to prevent children from being exposed to liquid nicotine in e-cigarettes. On Tuesday, the House is expected to vote on a bill (H.R. 1644) that would prevent the Administration from issuing final rules related to coal-mining activities near streams until the National Academy of Sciences submits a study on the effectiveness of existing rules. On Wednesday, the House is expected to take up an Iran sanctions bill (H.R. 3662) and resolution (S.J. Res. 22) disapproving of the Waters of the United States rule.

The President will deliver his final State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night at approximately 9 p.m. No votes are expected in either chamber Thursday or Friday as Republicans hold their annual policy retreat.

Senate Floor: Convenes at 2 p.m. and is expected to hold a vote on a judicial nomination.

House Floor: Convenes at 2 p.m. to consider nine bills under suspension of the rules. Votes are postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “Defense Health Care Reform.” Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Full committee markup to vote on the nomination of Robert Califf to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.

House Agriculture Committee

- Nutrition subcommittee hearing titled “Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Addressing Special Populations.” Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on the "External Power Supplies Improvement Act of 2016." Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.
- Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on H.R.2669, the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2015"; H.R.2666, the "No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act"; the Discussion Draft of the "Small Business Broadband Deployment Act"; and H.R.1301, the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015." Tuesday, January 12 at 10:15 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on "Opportunities and Challenges Facing the National Flood Insurance Program." Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.
- Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on "How to Create a More Robust and Private Flood Insurance Marketplace." Witnesses include, Teresa Miller, commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Insurance Department, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Wednesday, January 13 at 9:15 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Joint Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Information Technology subcommittee hearing titled “Wassenaar: Cybersecurity and Export Control.” Tuesday, January 12 at 2 p.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Full committee markup on HR 1854, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act and HR 3406, a bill reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007. Tuesday, January 12 at 10:15 a.m.

House Veterans’ Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “1988 to 2016: VETSNET to VBMS; Billions Spent, Backlog Grinds On.” Tuesday January 12 at 10:30 a.m.

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

- Full committee markup of H.R.4084, the "Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act." Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Agriculture, Energy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on "SBA's Office of International Trade: Good for Business?" Monday, January 11 at 4 p.m.

- Full committee hearing on "SBA Management Review: Oversight of SBA's Access to Capital Offices." Tuesday, January 12 at 10 a.m.
- Health and Technology Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of the Office of Investment and Innovation at the SBA." Tuesday, January 12 at 3 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)
The Times Herald—January 6th, 2015
Editorial: Defending the Great Lakes Must Remain a Priority
All of us who advocate for the protection and improvement of our Great Lakes have had several major restoration and preservation accomplishments worth celebrating in 2015.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow
The Hill—January 6th, 2016
Lawmakers Propose Bipartisan Bill to Boost Mental Health Funding
Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) on Wednesday announced they are introducing a bipartisan bill to increase funding for community mental health clinics.

Latest Developments

DHS Announces REAL ID Enforcement Timeline
On Friday, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced the final phase of REAL ID enforcement by the Transportation Security Administration at all U.S. airports. Earlier this fall, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) updated the REAL ID compliance status of all states and provided qualifying states with extensions to come into full compliance with the law. Beginning in January 2018, passengers with a state driver's license not compliant with the REAL ID Act (that has not been granted an extension) will need to show an alternative form of identification for domestic air travel. Beginning in October 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID–compliant license or another acceptable form of identification for domestic air travel. For more information, click here.

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