

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: House Democratic Leadership Elections, Government Funding
Congress is expected to continue work on an agreement to fund the government past the December 9th deadline. A short term resolution that will provide funding through March is expected. With negotiations on the Water Resources Development Act progressing slowly, emergency relief fort Flint, Michigan, as well as other riders, may be included in the resolution. Congress may also consider the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6).

On Tuesday the House will take up 16 bills under suspension of the rules, including H.R. 5458, the Veterans TRICARE Choice Act of 2016. House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on Wednesday. Later in the week, the House is expected to take up a package of biomedical innovation bills and possibly the defense authorization conference report.

Senate Floor: Convenes at 3:00 p.m. Monday for a pro forma session. First votes are expected on Tuesday.

House Floor: Not in session. Convenes at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29th for consideration of 16 bills under suspension of the rules, with first votes expected at 6:30 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)
The Hill—November 17th, 2016
House GOP Passes Bill to Block Aircraft Sales to Iran
House Republicans took another stab at blocking the sale of aircraft to Iran on Thursday.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow
The Detroit News—November 16th, 2016
Stabenow Nabs Key Policy Post for Senate Democrats
Michigan's senior senator, Debbie Stabenow, was selected Wednesday to chair the Policy and Communications Committee for Senate Democrats, replacing New York Sen. Chuck Schumer who next year will become the new minority leader.

Latest Developments

EPA Announces Final Annual Mandatory Blending Volumes for Biofuels Under the RFS

On Friday, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an increase in renewable fuel volume requirements across all categories of biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. The announcement finalizes the volume requirements and associated percentage standards for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2017, and for biomass-based diesel for 2018. Notably, the action would provide for an increase in non-advanced or "conventional" renewable fuels for 2017, meeting the 15 billion-gallon congressional target for conventional fuels. It would also cause total renewable fuel volumes to grow 1.2 billion gallons from 2016 to 2017, which would account for a 6 percent overall increase. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set annual RFS volume requirements for four categories of biofuels. For more information, please click here.

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