

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Comprehensive Energy Bill, Iran Sanctions, Veto Override of Health Care Repeal

Senate Floor: Convenes for legislative business at 3 p.m. First votes expected upon completion of consideration of S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, which may happen Thursday. The bill includes provisions to expedite liquefied natural gas exports, implement efficiency programs, modernize the electric grid and reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Though the bill has bipartisan support, the inclusion of controversial amendments may prevent final passage.

House Floor: Convenes for legislative business at 2 p.m. First votes on eight bills expected at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the House will take a final vote on passage of H.R. 3662, the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act. That bill would restrict the President's ability to lift sanctions on Iran and other financial institutions as outlined in the Iran nuclear agreement. The House will also vote on Tuesday to override the President's veto of H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, which would repeal major provisions of the Affordable Care Act. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House is expected to consider H.R. 1675, which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to review and update regulations for small companies, and H.R. 766, which would prohibit federal banking regulators from requesting financial institutions terminate their relationships with specific customers or groups of customers unless there is a specific reason.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on "ensuring intermodal Universal Service Fund support for rural America." Thursday, February 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Stream Protection Rule: Impacts on the Environment and Implications for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act Implementation." Wednesday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “Frontline Response to Terrorism in America.” Tuesday, February 2 at 10:15 a.m.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee

- Full committee markup of S.1125, to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the state of Montana, and the United States; and S.1983, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement. Wednesday, February 3 at 2:15 p.m.
- Full committee hearing titled “Reexamining the Substandard Quality of Indian Health Care in the Great Plains.” Wednesday, February 3 at 2:15 p.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Failures and Future of the EB-5 Regional Center Program: Can it be Fixed?" Tuesday, February 2 at 10 a.m.

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee field hearing titled “Fighting Against a Growing Epidemic: Opioid Misuse and Abuse Among Older Americans.” Monday, February 1 at 10:30 a.m., Leesburg, Virginia.

House Agriculture Committee

- Nutrition subcommittee hearing on review of incentive programs aimed at increasing low-income families’ purchasing power for fruits and vegetables. Wednesday, February 3 at 10 a.m.

House Budget Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook." Thursday, February 4 at 9:30 a.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Full committee markup of H.R.4293, the "Affordable Retirement Advice Protection Act"; and H.R.4294, the "Strengthening Access to Valuable Education and Retirement Support Act of 2015." Tuesday, February 2 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing titled “Expanding Educations Opportunity Through School Choice.” Wednesday, February 3 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on pending legislation, including H.R.2984, the "Fair Ratepayer Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency Standards (RATES) Act.” Tuesday, February 2 at 10 a.m.

- Communications and Technology subcommittee hearing titled “Status of Public Safety Broadband Network.” Tuesday, February 2 at 10:15 a.m.
- Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 3797, the "Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act (SENSE) Act" and the "Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act." Wednesday, February 3 at 10 a.m.
- Health subcommittee hearing titled “Examining Implementation of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovations Act.” Thursday, February 4 at 10 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Full committee markup of the “National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel act of 2016”; “Enhancing Overseas Traveler Vetting Act”; the “Foreign Fighter Review Act of 2016”; the “Amplifying Local Efforts to Root Out Terror Act of 2016”; the “Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2016”; the “Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2016”; H.R. 4383, the “DHS Human Trafficking Prevention Act of 2016; and the “DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2016.” Tuesday, February 2 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee hearing titled “Crisis of Confidence: Preventing Terrorist Infiltration U.S. Refugee and Visa Programs.” Wednesday, February 3 at 10 a.m.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “Developments in the Prescription Drug Market: Oversight.” Thursday, February 4 at 9 a.m.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

- Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee meeting on "Roundtable: Building Upon Success: Priorities for the Water Resources Development Act of 2016." Witnesses include: Amy Larson, president of the National Waterways Conference and Kathy Broadwater, deputy executive director of the Maryland Port Administration on behalf of the American Association of Port Authorities. Tuesday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Reaching America's Potential: Delivering Growth and Opportunity for All Americans." Witnesses include Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum. Tuesday, February 2 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)

WTVB—January 29th, 2016

Walberg Bill Aimed at Ending Wasteful Spending Signed into Law

President Obama yesterday signed into law 7th District Michigan GOP Congressman Tim Walberg’s bipartisan bill to increase government accountability and reduce wasteful spending.

Latest Developments

CDC Board Advances Opioid Prescribing Guideline

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced progress in developing voluntary guidance for primary care providers prescribing opioids for chronic, non-cancer–related pain. In response to stakeholder concerns, the CDC delayed the release of the draft guidelines and opened it for additional public comment. The agency also asked the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Board of Scientific Counselors to convene a workgroup to review the draft and the comments received. On Friday, the board voted unanimously to adopt guideline recommendations that received unanimous or majority support from the workgroup, as well as to further consider the guideline recommendations for which the workgroup had mixed opinions. The workgroup noted that stakeholder comments reflected general agreement that guidelines are needed. Click here for the report and corresponding summary.

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