

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Addressing Opioid Abuse, Medicaid, Pollution

Senate Floor: Convenes for legislative business at 3 p.m. Monday. At 5 p.m. the chamber will resume consideration on a motion to proceed to a bill that would authorize emergency funding to combat opioid and heroin abuse (S.524), with a cloture vote on the motion expected at 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: The House will reconvene at 2 p.m. to consider nine bills under suspension of the rules, including one that authorizes training on countering violent extremism for federal, state and local officials (HR 4401) and a Federal Emergency Management Agency reauthorization bill (HR 1471), which makes several changes to federal disaster assistance programs. On Tuesday, the House will consider another 12 bills under suspension. Later in the week, the House will consider a bill requiring states to provide to the Department of Health and Human Services with information on provider terminations and for other purposes (HR 3716), and another that would regulate pollutants from brink and ceramics manufacturing (HR 4557).

In addition to floor activity, both House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees are scheduled to hold a number of hearings to discuss federal agency budget requests, including those for the Department of Health and Human Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of the Army, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration and Customs and Border Protection, among others.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the "State of the Farm Economy." Tuesday, March 1 at 2:30 p.m.
- Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the "Interior Budget." Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.
- Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Health and Human Services. Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.
- Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing to examine proposed budget estimate and justification for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018

for the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration. Thursday, March 3 at 11 a.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on the “Posture of the Department of the Air Force.” Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing on the "Energy Budget." Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Pending Legislation-Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2016." Wednesday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on the “Multiemployer Pension Plan System.” Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on “Trade Agreement Implementation.” Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on "EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program Abuse." Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Federal Fisheries Management." Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.
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House Agriculture Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “Past Present and Future of SNAP: Examining State Options.” Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.

House Appropriations Committee

- Full committee hearing on the “Energy Department Budget.” Tuesday, March 1 at 9:30 a.m.
- Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the budget of the United States Customs and Border Protection. Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.
- Defense subcommittee hearing on the budget of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.
- Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing on the budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Wednesday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m.

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies subcommittee hearing on the budget of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.
- Defense subcommittee hearing on the budget of the United States Air Force. Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the “Applied Energy Budget.” Wednesday, March 2 at 10:30 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the “Energy Science Budget.” Wednesday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m.
- Defense subcommittee hearing on the budget of the United States Army. Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.
- Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the budget of the United States Coast Guard. Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on "Pipeline Safety." Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.
- Health Subcommittee hearing on “Long-Term Care Financing/Delivery.” Tuesday, March 1 at 10:15 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations subcommittee hearing titled “Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Zika Virus. Wednesday, March 2 at 10:15 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Regulatory Reform Legislation-Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act (Updated)." Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Border and Maritime Security subcommittee hearing titled “Transparency, Trust and Verification: Measuring Effectiveness and Situational Awareness Along the Border.” Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

House Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing titled “The Encryption Tightrope: Balancing Americans Security and Privacy.” Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing on the "Interior Budget." Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

House Rules Committee

- Full committee hearing on H.R. 3716, the Ensuring Terminated Providers are Removed from Medicaid and CHIP Act. Tuesday March 1 at 3 p.m.

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

- Energy subcommittee hearing on the "DOE Loan Guarantee Program." Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Small Innovation/Technology Programs." Wednesday, March 2 at 11 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the "Energy Science Budget." Wednesday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m.

House Veterans Affairs Committee

- Oversight and Investigations subcommittee field hearing titled "Addressing VA Opoid Prescription and Pain Management Practices." Friday, March 4 at 10:30 a.m., Concord, NH.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)

The Hill—February 25th, 2016

GOP Bill Seeks to Block 'Midnight Regulations'

Republican lawmakers on Thursday unveiled legislation intended to block a burst of last-minute "midnight regulations" from the Obama administration.

Rep. Sander Levin (MI-09)

Fortune—February 23rd, 2016

House Democrats to Introduce Bill Taking Aim at Inversions

Two ranking House Democrats will introduce a bill Tuesday seeking to limit corporate inversions.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow

Oakland Press—February 25th, 2016

Peters, Stabenow Sponsor Legislation to Put More Nurses in Schools

After a task force found that Michigan ranked last in the ratio of school nurses to students, the state's two U.S. senators are introducing legislation to allow schools and state agencies to apply for federal grants to hire more nurses.

Sen. Gary Peters

Battle Creek Enquirer—February 27th, 2016

Peters Offers Bill to Protect Kellogg Airport Funding

Legislation will be introduced to protect W.K. Kellogg Airport from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Detroit News—February 22nd, 2016

Peters Bill Would Boost College Credit at High Schools

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, is introducing a bill to expand options for high school students to earn college credit through dual or concurrent college enrollment via federal grants.

Latest Developments

House Passes Sportsmen's Package

On Friday, the House passed H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015, largely by party line, 242-161. The bill seeks to increase access to public lands for hunting and fishing, but was opposed by some environmental and conservation groups because it could potentially undermine existing environmental protection laws. In a statement of Administration policy, the White House indicated it was strongly opposed to H.R. 2406 in its current form because of language that would prohibit federal land management policies. However, there was no veto threat and the Administration said it would continue to work with Congress to address certain provisions in the legislation. In January, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed similar public lands access legislation, S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, though it remains unclear when that bill will come before the Senate.

DOT Announces Freight Grants

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced the first round of the National Significant Freight and Highway Projects grant program, known as FASTLANE grants. FASTLANE grants were created under the recent five-year surface transportation reauthorization, the FAST Act, to fund critical, nationally significant freight and highway projects. The FAST Act authorizes $800 million in grants for FY 2016, with 25 percent reserved for rural projects and 10 percent for smaller projects. State transportation department applications for FY 2016 are due April 14.

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