

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: King Nomination, FAA extension and Appropriations

Senate Floor: Convenes at 3 p.m. Monday. At 4 p.m. the chamber is expected to begin consideration of the nomination of John B. King to be Secretary of Education, followed by a vote on the nomination at 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: The House will reconvene at 2 p.m. to consider fourteen bills under suspension of the rules, including H.R. 4721 which extends Federal Aviation Administration programs authorization until July 15, votes are postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the House meets at noon for consideration of a bill (H.R. 3797) that would modify emissions standards for power plants using coal refuse and other coal mining by-products. Toward the end of the week the House may take up a bill (H.R. 4596) regarding small business broadband.

In addition to floor activity, both House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees will hold a number of hearings to discuss federal agency budget requests, including those for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Guard and Reserve, Departments of Transportation, Labor, Agriculture and Energy. On Monday and Tuesday the House Energy and Commerce committee will mark up a bill (H.R. 4725) dealing with spending cuts and reforms to Medicaid and CHIP. On Wednesday the Senate HELP committee will markup numerous opioid and mental health related bills, including S. 1455 and S. 2256. Finally, the Senate may consider legislation to set a nationwide policy for labeling food products with genetically modified organisms, and the House may come to agreement on a fiscal 2017 budget resolution.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Defense Subcommittee hearing on the proposed budget estimates and justification for FY2017 for the National Guard and Reserve, witnesses include General Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard. Wednesday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget request and funding justification for the Transportation Department, witnesses include Transportation Secretary Foxx. Wednesday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m.

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on budget estimates and justification for FY2017 for the Labor Department, witnesses include Labor Secretary Perez. Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee hearing on the current state of readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for FY2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Hands Off: The Future of Self-Driving Cars." Tuesday, March 15 at 2:30 p.m.
- Full committee markup of S. 2658, the "Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016"; and S. 2644, the "FCC Reauthorization of 2016 Act". Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on the "2016 Water Resources Development Act - Policies and Projects." Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on "HealthCare.gov: A Review of Operation and Enrollment." Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

- Full committee markup on S.1455, the "Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act"; S.2256, the "Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act of 2015"; S.480, the "National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015"; the "Mental Health Reform Act of 2016"; and the "Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act." Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on “The Security of U.S. Visa Programs.” Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Immigration and the National Interest Subcommittee hearing on the on "The Impact of High Levels of Immigration on U.S. Workers." Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee hearing on the sudden price spikes in decades-old Rx drugs. Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on S. 2646, the "Veterans Choice Improvement Act of 2016"; S. 2633, the "Improving Veterans Access to Care in the Community Act"; S.2473, the "Express Appeals Act of 2016"; and a Discussion Draft on title 38, United States Code, appointment, compensation, performance management, and accountability system for senior executive leaders in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Tuesday, March 15 at 2:15 p.m.

House Appropriations Committee

- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, witnesses include Director Dan Ashe. Tuesday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m.
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the budget for the Labor Department, witnesses include Secretary Perez. Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the budget for the Energy Department and Environmental Management. Tuesday, March 15 at 10:30 a.m.
- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the budget for the National Parks Service, witnesses include Director Jon Jervis. Wednesday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m.
- Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on the budget for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, witnesses include FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the budget for the National Institute of Health. Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.
- Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on the budget for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, witnesses include ICE Director Sarah Saldana. Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

House Armed Services Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The FY2017 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from Military Departments." Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.
- Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee hearing on "FY2017 Budget Request for U.S. Cyber Command: Preparing for Operations in the Cyber Domain." Wednesday, March 16 at 2 p.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services," witnesses include Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell. Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor," witnesses include Secretary Thomas Perez. Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Health subcommittee hearing on “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015: Examining Implementation of Medicare Payment Reforms.” Thursday, March 17 at 10 a.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on “Trade with Cuba: Growth and Opportunities.” Witnesses include C. Parr Rosson, Head of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University's Department of Agricultural Economics; Ray Stoesser, President of the Texas Rice Council; Jason Marczak, Director of the Atlantic Council's Latin American Growth Initiative; Mauricio Claver-Carone, Executive Director of Cuba Democracy Advocates; Richard Feinberg, Professor in the University of California, San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy Tuesday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications Subcommittee hearing on “State of Emergency: The Disaster of Cutting Preparedness Grants”, witnesses include FEMA Administrator Fugate. Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on “DHS in Today’s Dangerous World: Examining the Department’s Budget and Readiness to Counter Homeland Threats.” Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

- Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules Subcommittee hearing on “Examining the Renewable Fuel Standard.” Wednesday, March 16 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on “Examining Federal Administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Flint, Michigan, Part 3.” Witnesses include Gina McCarthy, Administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. Thursday, March 17 at 9 a.m.

House Rules Committee

- Full committee hearing to formulate a rule on H.R. 3797, the "Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act; and H.R.4596, the "Small Business Broadband Deployment Act." Monday, March 14 at 4 p.m.

House Veterans Affairs Committee

- Full committee and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee joint hearing on the legislative priorities from various associations including the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs. Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Health Subcommittee hearing on "Preserving and Strengthening Medicare." Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.,

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)
Holland Sentinel—March 9th, 2016
U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga Introduces Federal Prison Industries Legislation
U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Michigan, recently introduced House Resolution 4671, legislation to end the government monopoly of Unicor, also known as Federal Prison Industries, and force the organization to compete with the private sector.

Latest Developments

HHS Funds Substance Abuse Treatment in Health Centers

Last week the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced approximately $94 million in funding for health centers in 47 states and territories to improve and expand opioid and heroin abuse services. The funding, administered through the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration, will allow health centers to increase the number of patients with access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use, provide informed prescribing training to health officials and increase the number of patients screened for substance use disorders. HHS anticipates the funding will help awardees hire approximately 800 providers and treat 124,000 new patients. For a full list of states receiving funding, click here.

State of Michigan – Washington, D.C. Office
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 411, Washington, D.C. 20001
202.624.5840