

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Energy-Water Spending, Opioid, School Voucher Bills
The Senate convened yesterday at 3 p.m. and voted at 5:30 p.m. on an amendment to the FY 2017 House Energy, and Water Development Appropriations bill, with more votes on amendments lasted for Tuesday morning. Senate leadership is also developing its strategy to bring mental health reform legislation to the floor soon.

The House convened at 2 p.m. on Tuesday and will hold first votes at 6:30 p.m. on 15 bills under suspension of the rules. On Wednesday, the House will take up four bills under suspension of the rules. Later in the week, the House is expected to consider H.R. 10, which would reauthorize the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship program (DCOSP), a federal K-12 school voucher program. A bipartisan companion DCOSP bill was introduced by Sens. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Cory Booker (D-NJ). The House will also consider H.J. Res. 88, disapproving the recent Department of Labor fiduciary rule.

Also on Tuesday at 5 p.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to vote on 11 opioid-related bills, including H.R. 4586 to authorize grants to states to create standing orders for naloxone prescriptions and to educate health care professionals about dispensing the opioid overdose reversal medication. The House Judiciary Committee could take up H.R. 953, comprehensive opioid legislation that is a companion bill to the recent Senate-passed Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy has indicated plans to bring a package of opioid bills to the House floor in May.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Defense Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget for the Defense Department, witnesses include Secretary Ashton B. Carter. Wednesday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

- Full committee markup of S.2644, the "FCC Reauthorization Act of 2016"; S.421, the "Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015"; S.2607, the "Developing Innovation and Growing the Internet of Things (DIGIT) Act"; the S.2508, the "Youth Sports Concussions Act"; S.2829, the "Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act

for FY2017"; S.2325, the "Digital Coast Act of 2015"; S.2817, the "Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act"; S.787, the "NTIS Elimination Act"; and votes on the nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard; and Andrew Read to be a member of the Marine Mammal Commission. Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Public Lands, Forest and Mining Subcommittee hearing on S.2440, the “Federal Land Invasive Species Control, Prevention, and Management Act.” Thursday, April 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Mental Health in America: Where Are We Now?,” witnesses include Douglas Thomas, Director of the State of Utah’s Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Thursday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women’s Issues Subcommittee hearing on “Review of Resources, Priorities and Programs in the FY2017 State Department Budget Request.” Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2017. Thursday, April 28 at 10 a.m.

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Drowning in Regulations: The Waters of the U.S. Rule and the Case for Reforming the RFA (Regulatory Flexibility Act).” Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of S.2812, the "SBIR and STTR Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2016"; S.2831, to amend the "Small Business Investment Act of 1958" to provide priority for applicants for a license to operate as a small business investment company that are located in a disaster area; S.2838, the "Small Business Transforming America's Regions Act of 2016"; and the "Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2016." Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.

Senate Special Aging Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Valcant Pharmaceuticals' Business Model: the Repercussions for Patients and the Health Care System," the committee's investigation into the sudden, aggressive price spikes of decades-old prescription drugs. Wednesday, April 27 at 3:30 p.m.

House Armed Services Committee

- Full committee markup of H.R.4909, the “National Defense Authorization Act for FY2017.” Wednesday, April 27 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Full committee markup of pending legislation, including, H.R.3998, the "Securing Access to Networks in Disaster (SANDy) Act and various opioid-related legislation. Tuesday, April 26-Thursday, April 28.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on "Transferring Guantanamo Bay Detainees to the Homeland: Implications for States and Local Communities," witnesses include **Governor Nikki Haley** (R-SC). Thursday, April 28 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee markup of H.R.1887, to amend certain appropriation Acts to repeal the requirement directing the Administrator of General Services to sell Federal property and assets that support the operations of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Plum Island, New York; H.R.4743, the "National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2016"; and the "Airport Perimeter and Access Control Security Act of 2016." Thursday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on "Bureau of Land Management's Regulatory Overreach into Methane Emissions Regulation." Wednesday, April 27 at 10 a.m.
- Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on the "Locally-elected Officials Cooperating with Agencies in Land Management Act." Thursday, April 28 at 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth Building.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "The Consequences of Federal Land Management Along the U.S. Border of Rural Communities and National Security." Thursday, April 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. John Moolenaar (MI-04)
MLive—April 25th, 2016
GOP Bill Includes $30 Million for Flint, $40 Million for Rural Areas
Legislation introduced last week by eight Republicans from Michigan's congressional delegation would provide financial aid to Flint and to other communities in the state in a response to that city's water crisis.

Sen. Gary Peters
The Oakland Press—April 19th, 2016
Senate Passes Peters' Amendments
The Senate passed legislation today to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which includes two amendments introduced by Michigan senator Gary Peters.

Latest Developments

Council of Governors Briefed by DoD, Army Leaders
On Friday, the Council of Governors held a conference call with senior Department of Defense (DoD) and Army officials to receive an update on several Council priorities since February. Chief of Staff of the Army

Gen. Mark Milley discussed the Army's recent assessment of the 63 recommendations of the National Commission on the Future of the Army. He discussed his efforts to include the views and input of state adjutants general throughout the Army's review process. He indicated that the assessment would be released in the coming weeks. Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work also discussed the ongoing challenge with balancing priorities and offsets to cover the costs of some recommendations under the current budget caps. During the call, the Council also urged DoD and the National Guard Bureau to work with governors to address concerns with the current requirement for conversion of certain National Guard military technicians to federal Title V employees. Finally, the Council received an update on the finalization of the DoD interim policy on certain National Guard cyber activities. The Council's next in-person plenary meeting with DoD and other federal officials is July 14.

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