



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of January 12, 2015

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of January 12, 2015, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, January 12th

2:00| The House will meet for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 203](#) – Clay Hunt SAV (Suicide Prevention for American Veterans) Act. This bill directs the VA to have an independent third party conduct annual evaluations of the VA's mental health care and suicide prevention programs. It also establishes a pilot program for loan repayments of psychiatrists who agree to serve in the department's Veterans Health Administration, as well as a pilot program to assist veterans transitioning from active duty and improve their access to mental health services.

[H.R. 33](#) – Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act. The bill defines "bona fide volunteer" as an employee of any government entity and any tax-exempt charitable organization whose only compensation is in the form of: (1) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of volunteer services, or (2) reasonable benefits (including length-of-service awards) and nominal fees customarily paid by similar entities for the services of volunteers. This would exempt such employers from ACA requirements with respect to such volunteers.

The Senate will convene at 2:00 PM and following any leader remarks, resume consideration of the motion to proceed to [S. 1](#), the Keystone XL Pipeline Act.

Tuesday, January 13th

10:00| Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing: Articulating the Case for America's Leadership in the World

10:00 |House Committee on Financial Services Markup: Committee Organizational Meeting

10:00 | House Committee on Ways and Means Hearing: Moving America Forward: With a Focus on Economic Growth. New Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means Paul Ryan (R-WI) announced that the first hearing of the 114th Congress will be focused on the state of the U.S. economy and policies that can promote job creation and economic growth.

10:30 | House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing: Business Meeting to Formally Organize the Veterans' Affairs Committee for the 114th Congress

11:00 |House Armed Service Committee Business Meeting: Organizational Meeting for the 114th Congress

Tuesday, January 13th – Friday, January 16th

Tuesday – The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

Wednesday – The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

[H.R. 185](#) – Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015. The bill modifies the federal rule-making process by requiring agencies to estimate the cost of proposed regulations and consider new criteria, including lower-cost alternatives. It creates additional steps that agencies must follow when proposing "major" or "high impact" rules (i.e., those with annual costs of more than \$100 million and \$1 billion, respectively), including an advanced-notice comment period to determine whether the rule-making process should proceed, as well as new opportunities to challenge agency justifications and findings.

[H.R. 37](#) – Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Business Burdens Act. The bill modifies numerous requirements under Dodd-Frank and other financial services laws in an effort to reduce the impact of those laws on certain entities and spur business growth. Among its provisions, it exempts certain end users of derivatives from margin calls, allows issuers of securities to submit a disclosures report aimed at increasing investor comprehension, and exempts certain entities from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration requirements. It also modifies and delays aspects of the so-called Volcker rule, which otherwise requires banks to divest themselves of certain collateralized loan obligations and refrain from some proprietary trading. The measure last week failed to get the two-thirds vote needed to pass the House under suspension of the rules.

[H.R. 240](#) – Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015. The bill was the only full spending measure excluded from last month's FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act in order to let Republicans use it as a vehicle to address President Obama's executive actions on immigration. The spending measure to be considered reflects a bipartisan agreement reached last month as part of the broader omnibus negotiations, providing a total of \$47.8 billion for the Homeland Security Department – including \$39.7 billion in discretionary spending subject to budget caps, \$400 million more than the FY 2014 level. Compared with FY 2014, it increases funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (12%), Customs and Border Protection (2%) and the Secret Service (5%), including funds for additional staff and to bolster the White House's security infrastructure. Both TSA and the Coast Guard would be cut by 2%. The measure does not include provisions limiting the president's immigration actions; rather, the House expects to vote on a series of GOP amendments to block or roll back the president's policies and restrict his ability to take further actions in the future.