



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of July 27, 2015

The House is in recess this week. Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of July 27, 2015, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, July 27th

2 PM | The House will meet legislative business and to consider the following legislation:

[H.R. 675](#) - Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015. The bill increases the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment that will be payable to Social Security recipients (estimated at 0.9%).

[H.R. 1300](#) - First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act. This bill creates a program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers on a voluntary basis, which would be initiated through a two-year pilot program.

[H.R. 1831](#) - Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2014. This bill establishes a 15-member Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking to study how best to expand the use of data by both policymakers and outside researchers in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of federal programs and tax expenditures.

[H.R. 1607](#) - Ruth Moore Act of 2015. This bill requires the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to submit detailed annual reports to Congress on the approval or rejection of military sexual trauma (MST) disability claims, and, until the VA has updated its regulations to recognize the impact of MST, it requires the VA to post those reports online and provide them to the veterans who submitted claims.

[H.R. 1994](#) - VA Accountability Act. The bill expands the ability of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Department to fire or demote VA employees based on performance or misconduct. It also includes provisions to protect VA whistleblowers against retaliation.

[H.R. 2127](#) - Securing Expedited Screening Act. This bill limits the categories of airline passengers who may receive expedited airport screening by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), allowing such screening only for passengers who are members of a TSA trusted traveler program such as PreCheck, the military or those considered to be a low risk. TSA may also provide expedited screenings to passengers who are 75 years of age or older; or 12 years of age and younger if their parent or guardian is a participant in the PreCheck program.

[H.R. 2499](#) - Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2499 - Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015. This bill raises the cap of the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) 7(a) loan guaranty program from \$18.75 billion to \$23.5 billion and requires that loans under the program not displace private sector loans. The measure also permanently waives the guarantee fee for veterans and their spouses applying for SBA express loans, beginning Oct. 1, 2015.

[H.R. 2750](#) - Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act of 2015, as amended. This bill requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to use the National Counterterrorism Center's Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE) for the credentialing of individuals with access to sensitive areas of U.S. airports by the end of 2015. The measure also requires TSA to check these individuals against a review of criminal records and work authorizations each year.

[H.R. 2770](#) - Keeping Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act. This bill outlines specific requirements and procedures that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) must follow in maintaining security-related technology deployed at airports. For maintenance performed by TSA personnel at airports, the measure requires the agency to outline how it will conduct and document preventive maintenance actions and the mechanisms that the agency will use to verify compliance.

[H.R. 2843](#) - TSA PreCheck Expansion Act. This bill requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to expand enrollment in its PreCheck program, using the services of private sector entities to help in expanding the program.

[H. J. Res. 61](#) - Hire More Heroes Act of 2015. This bill exempts veterans who already receive health insurance through the Veterans Affairs Department or reservists covered under Tricare from being counted toward the number of employees that triggers the employer mandate under the 2010 health care overhaul.

[S. 1482](#) - Need-Based Educational Aid Act. This bill extends for seven years, through Sept. 30, 2022, a current antitrust exemption that allows higher education institutions that disregard financial need in their admissions processes to enter into agreements to administer financial aid programs. The agreements can only address aid provided strictly on the basis of financial need that does not target specific students.

2 PM | The Senate will convene and resume consideration of [H.R.22](#), Hire More Heroes Act of 2015. The Senate on July 22 took up the measure to use as the legislative vehicle for a six-year authorization of surface transportation programs (the vehicle for the Highway Bill). Sometime after they convene, the Senate is expected to take a final vote on attaching reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank to the highway bill. The 30 hours of post-cloture debate time on the amendment would expire at roughly 10:10 PM.

Tuesday, July 28th

10 AM | House Committee on Education and the Workforce - Reviewing the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10 AM | House Committee on Financial Services Hearing: "The Dodd-Frank Act Five Years Later: Are We More Prosperous?" The Dodd-Frank Act represents the most ambitious change in the regulation of financial institutions since the Great Depression, and its reach extends not only to every financial institution in the United States, but to virtually every corner of the U.S. economy as well.

10:30 AM | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Oversight Hearing on "Accountability, Policies, and Tactics of Law Enforcement within the Department of Interior and Forest Service" The cooperation between county and federal law enforcement authorities can be a product of attitude as much as statute or policy, the current arrangement leaves local officials with limited recourse to address these issues. Click [here](#) to view the background memo and [here](#) to view the webcast live.

Wednesday, July 29th

10:30 AM | Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Hearing: to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy.

2:30 PM | Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing: to examine ending veteran homelessness.

Thursday, July 30th

2:00 PM | Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing: to examine Dodd-Frank at five years.