



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of September 15, 2014

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of September 15 below. Potential further action on a continuing resolution is also expected.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Tuesday, September 16th

2:00 | Senate Aging Hearing: Telehealth, focusing on promises and challenge. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

2:00 | The House meets for legislative business and the following may be taken up Under Suspension of Rules:

[S. 2154](#) - Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2014 - This bill authorizes \$20.2 million for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019. EMSC, last reauthorized in 2010, aims to reduce child and youth mortality and morbidity caused by severe illness or trauma.

[S. 1086](#) - Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, as amended (Sponsored by Sen. Barbara Mikulski / Education and Workforce Committee)

[H.R. 3006](#) - This bill requires the Interior Department to convey 80 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in California to Riverbottom Farms. In exchange, the farm must donate the 40-acre parcel in Arizona to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. (Sponsored by Rep. Ken Calvert / Natural Resources Committee)

[H.R. 3374](#) - American Savings Promotion Act - This bill allows federally regulated financial institutions to [offer](#) savings promotion raffles to customers who make savings deposits.

[H.R. 2996](#) - Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2013 - This bill creates a network of public-private partnerships across the United States to design and test new technologies in manufacturing. The Energy secretary is permitted to transfer a total of \$250 million in order to carry out programs under the bill. The measure also permits a combined total of \$300 million for these programs to be transferred from existing accounts within the Energy Department, economic development assistance programs and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

2:00 | Senate on limiting debate on a bill ([S 2199](#)) intended to ensure men and women receive equal pay for the same work.

Wednesday, September 17th

10:00| House Agriculture Hearing: Implementation of Sec. 4022 of the Agriculture Act of 2014: Pilot projects to reduce dependency and increase work requirements and work effort under SNAP. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | House Energy and Commerce – [H.R. 4526](#) - the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014 – The bill directs the Secretary of Energy (DOE) to establish a comprehensive program to improve the education and training of workers for energy-related jobs, with emphasis on increasing the number of skilled minorities and women trained to work in such jobs. Click [here](#) to read the hearing background notice and [here](#) to view the live webcast.

10:00 | Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Markup: S. [2141](#); [H.R. 4366](#) to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement. This bill requires a state transportation department to develop a plan

after consultation with, among other things, private sector experts in the field of roadway safety infrastructure. Requires the department, in developing such plan, also to consider, among other things, the results of any strategic highway safety plan developed by a county or local government entity or regional transportation planning organization.

10:30 | House T&I Markup: [H.R. 5449](#) Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014 – This legislation improves the infrastructure, reduces costs, leverages private sector resources, creates greater accountability and transparency, and accelerates project delivery for Amtrak and the Nation’s passenger rail transportation system. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

Thursday, September 18th

11:00 | Senate Judiciary Markup: [S. 1690](#) to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007, [S. 2646](#) to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and to consider several Presidential nominations

11:30| House Energy & Commerce Hearing: Suicide Prevention and Treatment: Helping Loved Ones in Mental Health Crisis. The Committee has conducted a yearlong investigation of federal programs addressing severe mental illness. This hearing will continue that effort by reviewing the connection between serious mental illness and suicidal behavior. Members will seek to identify evidence-based treatments and effective strategies for suicide prevention. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

Tuesday, September 16th and the Balance of the Week

Additional Legislation to be Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.J. Res. 124](#) - Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 - Provides continuing FY2015 appropriations to federal agencies at the current annual rate until December 11, 2014, or specified conditions are met.

[H.R. 3593](#) - The VA Construction Assistance Act of 2014 - It requires the VA, within 180 days of enactment, to employ the services of at least one special project manager from the Army Corps of Engineers to oversee major medical facility construction projects in Denver, Colo.; Orlando, Fla.; and New Orleans, La. The average cost increase attributed to such delays has been \$336 million per project.

[H.R. 5404](#) - Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 - This bill extends a number of noncontroversial expiring authorities for the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) and Labor Department – including for the VA to collect payments, make referrals and provide various forms of assistance and benefits, such as authorizations for health care and homeless programs and benefits for disabled veterans. The measure authorizes \$250 million for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans, \$100 million more than the current level.

[H.R. 4276](#) - Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Improvement Act of 2014 - This bill requires the VA to issue quarterly reports to Congress on the pilot program for assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury with a final report to Congress due not later than 60 days after completion of the pilot program.

[S. 2258](#) - Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014 - This 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 (i.e., estimated at around 1.7%).

[H.R. 3043](#) - Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2013 - The bill clarifies the tax exclusion of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes and creates a committee to advise the Treasury Department on issues relating to taxation of Native Americans and establishes a seven-member Tribal Advisory Committee to advise the department on matters relating to the taxation of Native Americans

[H.R. 495](#) - Free File Program Act of 2014 - The bill requires the Treasury Department to maintain a program that provides free individual income tax preparation and electronic filing services to low-income taxpayers and elderly taxpayers, in cooperation with the private sector technology industry.

[H.R. 4137](#) - Preserving Welfare for Needs Not Weed Act - This bill prohibits assistance provided under the program of block grants to states for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) from being used through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale.

[H.R. 4994](#) - Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014 - The measure directs the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department to transfer \$130 million to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund. It also provides that 50% should be available on the date of enactment and 50% should be equally proportioned for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Such sums would remain available until expended.

H.R. (Bill number not assigned yet) - American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act - The measure comprises 13 bills that previously passed the House and which deal with energy development and regulation. Among its provisions, the measure allows for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline; requires that more federal lands and offshore areas be made available each year for oil and gas leasing and streamlines the process for approving drilling permits; limits EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from fossil-fueled power plants under the Clean Air Act; blocks federal rules related to hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and sets statutory deadlines for federal agencies to act when considering certification or permits for the construction or expansion of natural gas pipelines; and requires the Energy Department to expedite decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas.

H.R. (Bill number not assigned yet) - Jobs for America Act - The measure comprises of 15 bills that previously passed the House, and which seek to help businesses, including by reducing federal regulation. Among its provisions, the bill modifies the federal rule-making process by preventing all "major rules" from being implemented unless Congress enacts legislation approving them and requiring agencies to consider less costly alternatives and to review the "indirect" costs of proposed and existing rules; changes the definition of a full-time worker in the 2010 health care law who counts toward the number of employees that triggers the employer mandate; requires the U.S. Forest Service to increase timber production on National Forest lands; and reclassifies certain mining operations as "infrastructure projects" in order to streamline the permitting process for mining on federal lands.