



N
A
T
a
T | NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF TOWNS
AND TOWNSHIPS

Weekly Legislative Update

March 11, 2024

Congressional Outlook

The House and Senate are in session this week. After avoiding a partial federal government shutdown last week, Congress must pass additional Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 government funding legislation by Friday, March 22 to avoid a partial shutdown for federal departments and agencies amounting to nearly 70 percent of overall discretionary federal funding.

On Saturday, President Biden [signed](#) the **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42)** into law, finalizing FY 2024 funding for six of the 12 appropriations bills and all federal agencies funded by the Agriculture-Rural Development-Food and Drug Administration, Energy-Water Development, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, Transportation-Housing and Urban Development, Interior-Environment, and Commerce-Justice-Science bills. The House passed the \$460 billion “minibus” funding package by a vote of [339-85](#) followed by the Senate by a vote of [75-22](#). The legislation includes 6,628 [Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending requests \(i.e., earmarks\) for FY 2024](#), totaling \$12.7 billion for projects nationwide. Following the signage of the first six bills, lawmakers will shift to consideration and passage of the six remaining FY24 appropriations bills, which run out of funding on March 22. The remaining bills leave considerable issues for congressional leaders to work through. Specifically, the Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, and Homeland Security spending bills each have items where Democrats and Republicans are at odds. Negotiations also include numerous policy riders and significant differences regarding congressional earmarks under the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill since the House prohibited funding under those bill's accounts in FY24 while the Senate allowed them.

On Monday, the Biden-Harris Administration released its [FY 2025 budget proposal](#) to Congress. By federal law, the annual president's budget request serves as the start of the upcoming fiscal year's funding process. The \$7.3 trillion budget heads to Congress, and then Congress will, like all years, mostly disregard the numbers and priorities shared by the president and, instead, follow their own process for funding federal departments and agencies. The budget includes \$1.67 trillion in discretionary spending, with \$895 billion for base defense-related programs and \$621 billion for domestic spending.

The House will consider twelve [bills](#) under suspension of the rules, including the **Think Differently About Emergencies Act** ([H.R. 6249](#)), which requires FEMA and the GAO to review disaster assistance and resources for people with disabilities and their families; the Senate-passed **Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act** ([S. 1858](#)), which matches the deadline for an individual seeking unemployment assistance for a major disaster under the Stafford Act to the application deadline for individuals and households seeking other assistance under that act; and the **Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility (E-BRIDGE) Act** ([H.R. 1752](#)), allowing the EDA to make grants to public-private partnerships for broadband projects.

On Tuesday, the House will vote on the **Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies (USE IT) Act of 2023** ([H.R. 6276](#)), which requires the OMB and GSA to establish standard methodologies and identify technologies to measure federal building utilization and to use both to evaluate and consolidate public buildings and federally-leased space. The House will end its week on Wednesday afternoon by voting on the **Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act** ([H.R. 7251](#)), which would force the sale of TikTok by ByteDance, the company that owns it, or face a ban in the United States.

The Senate will vote this week on the nominations of Jasmine Yoon to be a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Sunil Harjani to be a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Melissa DuBose to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

For the remainder of the week, the House will hold several hearings, including a Small Business Subcommittee [hearing](#) on “**Navigating Regulations: Alternative Pathways to Investing in Small Businesses;**” a Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee [hearing](#) on “**Disaster Readiness: Examining the Propriety of the Expanded Use of FEMA Resources;**” and a Natural Resources Committee [markup](#) of 12 bills. The Senate will hold several committee hearings, including an Energy and Natural Resources Committee [hearing](#) to “**Examine the Findings and Recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission;**” a Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee [hearing](#) on “**Examining Proposals to Address Housing Affordability, Availability, and Other Community Needs;**” a Budget Committee [hearing](#) “**The President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal, with Testimony from OMB Director Shalanda Young;**” a Finance Committee [hearing](#) on “**The President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal, with testimony from Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra;**” a Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee [hearing](#) titled “**A Nation on Fire: Responding to the Increasing Wildfire Threat;**” and an Environment and Public Works Committee [markup](#) of three bills, including the **Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024** ([S. 3891](#)) and the **America’s Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2024** ([S. 3791](#)).

Bills and Regulations of Interest to You

Bill	Title	Sponsors	Background
<u>H.R. 7525</u>	Special District Grant Accessibility Act	Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX-4)	Requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations.
<u>H.R. 7536</u>	Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACE) Act	Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL-7)	Establishes a program for purposes of carrying out programs to prevent adverse childhood experiences and promoting positive childhood experiences, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct studies, evaluations, and research to address adverse childhood experiences, including through the promotion of positive childhood experiences.
<u>H.R. 7537</u>	Flood History Information Act	Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA-4)	Ensures that potential home buyers have access to a property's flooding history prior to purchase.
<u>S. 3867</u>	Livable Communities Act of 2024	Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)	Creates livable communities through coordinated public investment and streamlined requirements.
<u>S. 3871</u>	Whole-Home Repairs Act	Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA)	Establishes a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords.
<u>H.R. 7568</u>	Creates a deadline for emergency funds	Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2)	Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance.
<u>H.R. 7570</u>	Rescinds unobligated funds	Rep. Andrew	Rescinds unobligated funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the

	from the ARPA, IIJA, and IRA	Ogles (R-TN-5)	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.
<u>H.R. 7572</u>	SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Act	Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-OR-6)	Amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide employment and training data grants.
<u>S. 3877</u>	Lifelong Learning Act	Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)	Amends the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to permit greater flexibility in carrying out incumbent worker training programs.
<u>H.R. 7605</u>	Safeguarding Elderly Needs for Infrastructure and Occupational Resources (SENIOR) Act	Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA-3)	Addresses the critical issues causing assisted senior-living facilities to operate at steep financial losses as they continue caring for their residents.

Agency	Title	Proposed Regulation	Comment Deadline
EPA	<u>Initiation of Prioritization Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)</u>	EPA seeks comment on prioritization process for five chemical substances as candidates for designation as High-Priority Substances for risk evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)	March 18, 2024
FCC	<u>The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination</u>	Establishes a framework to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service by preventing digital discrimination of access.	March 22, 2024 (effective date)
NIH	<u>Inform Development of the FY 2026-2030 NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research</u>	Requires the Office of AIDS Research to develop a comprehensive plan, reviewed annually and revised as appropriate, that establishes HIV/AIDS research priorities and	April 1, 2024

		serves as a guiding framework for allocation of HIV/AIDS funding across NIH.	
FEMA	<u>Standard Flood Insurance Policy, Homeowner Flood Form</u>	Revises the Standard Flood Insurance Policy by adding a new Homeowner Flood Form and five accompanying endorsements. The new Homeowner Flood Form would replace the Dwelling Form as a source of coverage for homeowners of one-to-four family residences.	April 8, 2024
Corps of Engineers	<u>Guidelines for Federal Investments in Water Resources</u>	Provides a framework to govern how the Corps would evaluate proposed water resource investments, including identification of which Corps programs and activities are subject to the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines.	April 15, 2024
FHWA	<u>Highway Safety Improvement Program</u>	Amends the regulatory language to incorporate the Safe System Approach, clarify the scope of the HSIP to focus on the safety of all road users on the entire public road network, improve evaluation practices, streamline reporting efforts, and ensure States are collecting Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) fundamental data elements.	April 22, 2024
USTR	<u>Promoting Supply Chain Resilience</u>	USTR requests comments to inform objectives and strategies that advance U.S. supply chain resilience in trade negotiations, enforcement, and other initiatives.	April 22, 2024
FEMA	<u>Individual Assistance Program Equity</u>	Amending its regulations governing the Individual Assistance program to increase equity by simplifying processes, removing barriers to entry, and increasing eligibility for	July 22, 2024

		certain types of assistance under the program.	
--	--	---------------------------------------------------	--

Week in Review

[Biden signs a package of spending bills passed by Congress just hours before a shutdown deadline](#)

[Congress Passes Third FAA Extension, Through May 10](#)

[FACT SHEET: The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025](#)