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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE    NEW

The House met today and considered, but did not complete work on, the FY13 Energy & Water appropriations bill (H.R. 5325). Completion of the measure is expected next week after the chamber reconvenes on Tuesday, June 5. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) said yesterday that the House next week also will consider the FY13 Homeland Security funding bill (H.R. 5855) and a measure to repeal a 2.3-percent excise tax on medical devices (H.R. 436).

The Senate was in recess this week. It will reconvene for regular legislative business on Monday, June 4. The chamber at that time will consider a motion to proceed to legislation dealing with equal pay for women (S. 3220), with the cloture vote scheduled for the next day.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

SLOW PROGRESS ON FY13 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS    NEW

The House and Senate continue making slow progress on the FY13 appropriations process.

The House Appropriations Committee has approved seven out of 12 funding bills, two of which—Commerce-Justice-Science and Military Construction-Veterans—have passed the House. As noted above, the House began work on the Energy & Water bill, but is not expected to vote final approval of the measure until next week. The other FY13 appropriations bills that have been approved in full committee are: Defense, Homeland Security, Legislative Branch, and State-Foreign Operations. Still pending in subcommittee are Agriculture, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has also approved seven of its 12 bills: Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy & Water, Homeland Security, Military Construction-

Senate leaders had expected to take their first bill, Commerce-Justice-Science, to the floor shortly. However, CQ.com reports that consideration may be delayed over new concerns that the National Weather Service reprogrammed FY12 funds without the approval of Congress. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) has said she intends to ask Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee Chair Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) to delay moving their bill until questions about the Weather Service reprogramming are answered.

**REPUBLICAN LEADERS OFFER TWO NEW OFFSETS FOR STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE FIX** NEW

House and Senate Republican leaders yesterday offered two new proposals for covering the cost of keeping the interest rate on student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent on July 1, reports the Washington Post. The issue has been stalemated over dueling House and Senate proposals for covering the $6 billion cost of maintaining the current 3.4 percent interest rate for one year.

In a letter to President Obama, the four top Republican leaders suggested that the cost of keeping the lower interest rate for one year could be paid for by increasing the amount that federal employees contribute to their retirement accounts, or by a combination of three cost-saving proposals, including limiting the duration of borrowers’ in-school interest subsidy to 150 percent of the normal time needed to complete their educational programs.

The Post reports that the letter was sent to the President a few hours after Speaker Boehner told House Republicans in a private meeting that he did not expect Congress to reach a compromise on the issue before July 1, requiring a retroactive fix.

The Senate last week rejected both a Democratic plan (S. 2343) to pay for the one-year extension by eliminating a tax break for certain corporations and the Republican House-passed plan (H.R. 4628), which would eliminate funding for a preventive health fund created by the Affordable Care Act.

**OTHER**

**PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND TWO CAPITOL HILL S&T BRIEFINGS** NEW

Members of the public are invited to attend two science and technology (S&T) luncheon briefings on Capitol Hill.

The first is a session on June 8 titled, “The Start-up Act and America’s Entrepreneurial Economy,” which will feature a panel of business and association representatives, including AAU Vice President for Policy Toby Smith, discussing key elements of “Startup 2.0” (S. 3217), legislation that aims to bolster U.S. economic growth.
The luncheon briefing, which is sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, will be held on Friday, June 8, from 12-1:15 p.m. in B340 Rayburn House Office Building. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to page@wilsoncenter.org.

The second event is a June 12 briefing on university technology transfer co-sponsored by seven organizations, including AAU, and hosted by the Senate Science and Technology Caucus. The program, “From Lab to Market: Technology Transfer at Universities and National Laboratories and How the U.S. Economy Benefits,” will feature opening remarks by the Caucus co-chairs, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Mark Udall (D-CO), followed by presentations from three association, university, and national laboratory leaders.

The speakers are Jim Turner of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; Todd Sherer, technology director at Emory University and president of the Association of University Technology Managers; and Mike Paulus of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The luncheon briefing will be held on Tuesday, June 12, from 12-1:30 p.m. in 208-209 Capitol Visitors Center, Senate Side. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Andy Shine at 202-646-5023 or at shinea@battelle.org.

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