CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE
NEW

The Senate will remain in session until tomorrow, December 24, when members will vote on final passage of the health insurance reform legislation (H.R. 3590). The House has already approved its version of the bill. Immediately following the health care vote at 8:00 a.m., the Senate will vote on legislation (H.R. 4314) to raise the debt ceiling temporarily. (The latter measure was approved by the House December 16.)

Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) told CQToday that preconference negotiations on the health insurance bill will begin as soon as the Senate passes its bill and will continue over the holidays.

Once the Senate adjourns tomorrow, it will not return to session until Tuesday, January 19.

The House last met on December 16 and is scheduled to return to session on Tuesday, January 12.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR INVESTMENT IN THREE NEW ENERGY INNOVATION HUBS
NEW

The Department of Energy on December 22 announced its intention to invest up to $366 million to establish and operate three new Energy Innovation Hubs to focus on high-risk, high-reward research and development in three identified areas. Each Hub, which would be funded at up to $122 million over five years, would bring together multidisciplinary teams of researchers to speed research, development, and commercial deployment in promising energy-related technologies.

The three technology areas are production of fuels directly from sunlight, improving energy-efficient building systems design, and computer modeling and simulation for the development of
advanced nuclear reactors. The Department has issued a funding opportunity announcement for the Fuels from Sunlight Hub.

Additional information about the Department’s plan for the Hubs, including application requirements and schedules, is available on the Energy Innovation Hubs webpage.