



National Association of State  
Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

# WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 August 5, 2013

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## DATA Act Pulled Before Recess

As was reported last week, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee had tentatively scheduled a markup of S. 994, the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act. However, early Wednesday morning the bill was pulled from the schedule so that a manager's amendment could be drafted. It is uncertain when the bill will appear before the committee again, but it could be on the schedule when Congress returns from summer recess in September.

## Senate Confirms New SEC Commissioners

Late on Thursday the Senate confirmed Michael Piwowar and Kara Stein to be new commissioners of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Senate also confirmed SEC Chairman Mary Jo White for a full term, as she has been serving a partial term following Mary Schapiro's resignation at the end of 2012. Mary Jo White's full term will expire on June 5, 2019.

One of the first tasks confronting the new commissioners will be completion of the "municipal advisor" definition, an effort that began in 2010 and that has taken too long for some House members. Earlier this year Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) introduced their own muni advisor legislation (H.R. 797), the Municipal Advisor Oversight Improvement Act, to prod the SEC into completing the definition.

## Werfel Out at IRS

Danny Werfel's brief tenure as acting head of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) appears to be coming to an end, as President Barack Obama last week announced plans to nominate John Koskinen to serve as its new commissioner. In a statement from the White House, President Obama stated:

"John is an expert at turning around institutions in need of reform. With decades of experience, in both the private and public sectors, John knows how to lead in difficult times, whether that means ensuring new management or implementing new checks and balances. Every part of our government must operate with absolute integrity and that is especially true for the IRS. I am confident that John will do whatever it takes to restore the public's trust in the agency."

Mr. Koskinen served as non-executive chairman of Freddie Mac from 2008 to 2011 and acting CEO in 2009, and was deputy mayor and city administrator of Washington, D.C. from 2000 to 2003. The move was not a surprise as Werfel had indicated he would only be willing to serve until the end of the federal fiscal year.

## Ways and Means Looks at State's Welfare Examples

The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources held its third in a series of hearings related to state's efforts on welfare reform issues.

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This hearing focused on how states have used the flexibility provided by Congress to test new ways of helping those in need, and how that flexibility might be expanded to allow states to provide better, more coordinated services to low-income individuals and families.

The hearing featured state testimony from representatives from Illinois and Wisconsin. Michelle Saddler, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, told the subcommittee:

“The Affordable Care Act has provided Illinois with the critical ingredients a state needs to accomplish something great - funding and a deadline. Utilizing the enhanced match for system developments, Illinois is replacing our 30+ year-old legacy system with a modern system that will increase accuracy and efficiency, and allow the caseworker to focus more on the customer in front of them and less on paperwork.”

Echoing those remarks, Eloise Anderson, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, indicated that her state would like to see a large scale expansion of the concepts that made Temporary Assistance for Needy Families so successful in the states.

Testimony from all the panelists can be found at

[http://waysandmeans.house.gov/  
calendar/eventsingle.aspx?  
EventID=343816](http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=343816)