



National Association of State  
Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

# WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 November 12, 2013

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## Congress Returns During Veterans Day Holiday Week

The House and Senate both return to action this holiday-shortened week with a variety of hearings:

- Today in the Senate, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety will hold a hearing on payroll fraud. The hearing is entitled “Payroll Fraud: Targeting Bad Actors Hurting Workers and Businesses.” [www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=cc7f251e-5056-a032-520e-2335584bc64f](http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=cc7f251e-5056-a032-520e-2335584bc64f)
- On Wednesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing on Affordable Care Act implementation and the rollout of [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Panelists for this hearing will include Henry Chao, deputy chief information officer at the Office of Information Services in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and David Powner, director of information technology management issues at the Government Accountability Office. <http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/obamacare-implementation-rollout-healthcare-gov/>

## Senate Committee Passes DATA Act

Last week, The Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee passed an amended version of the

Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA). The Committee on Oversight and Government Affairs in the House passed their own version in May.

As you may recall, the DATA Act is intended to increase transparency and accountability in Federal spending by instituting standardized reporting. The legislation “expands the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006 by disclosing direct Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal contract, loan, and grant spending information to programs of Federal agencies in order to enable taxpayers and policy makers to track Federal spending more effectively.”

The amended version as passed by the Senate Committee gives oversight responsibility to the Office of Management and Budget and does not expand the role of the Recovery Board. The bill also changes some of the parameters of the pilot program for federal fund recipient reporting and lengthens many of the implementation deadlines.

A more comprehensive view of the legislation will be forthcoming in the November issue of the NASACT news.

## Senators Introduce One-Year Delay in Penalty Fee for Not Having Individual Health Insurance

Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) have introduced a bill (S. 1671) that would delay for one year

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the implementation of the individual health coverage mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In a joint statement on the reasoning for the bill, the senators stated:

“Since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, there have been many identifiable problems exposed in the law that need to be addressed. We’ve worked through a few of these issues, but our job in Congress is far from over. We need to start working together to fix this law and make it work so that all Americans have access to affordable and reliable health care coverage. We can start with a one-year delay of the individual mandate to eliminate penalty fees if individuals choose to not enroll for a health care plan in 2014. This commonsense proposal simply allows Americans to take more time to browse and explore their options, making 2014 a true transition year. Healthcare should not be a burden on consumers, which is why we must delay the penalty for individuals. Last July, American businesses were given more time to provide employees health coverage. If a delay is good enough for businesses, it should be good enough for all Americans.”

The bill would eliminate the \$95 penalty that will go into effect in 2014 under current law. There is currently no companion legislation in the House.