NOTE: The second session of the 115th Congress began on January 3, 2018.

SELECTED NEW PUBLIC LAW:

PUBLIC LAW 115-96: On December 22, 2017, the President signed into law H.R. 1370, to provide further continuing appropriations for the Federal government through Friday, January 19, 2018 (131 Stat. 2044; 10 pages)

PUBLIC LAW 115-97: On December 22, 2017, the President signed into law H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018 (131 Stat. 2054; 185 pages).

PUBLIC LAW 115-105: On January 8, 2018, the President signed into law the bill, S. 1393, Jobs for Our Heroes Act (131 Stat. 2263; 2 pages).

PUBLIC LAW 115-114: On January 10, 2018, the President signed into law the bill, H.R. 2331, Connected Government Act (131 Stat. 2278; 2 pages).

SELECTED FLOOR/CHAMBER ACTIONS:

ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE: On January 9, 2017, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 369, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. See v. 164 Cong. Record, page S111, January 9, 2018.

ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE: On January 9, 2017, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 370, to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. See v. 164 Cong. Record, page S111, January 9, 2018.


ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE: On January 11, 2018, the House passed the Rapid DNA Act, S. 139, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, and to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 256 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 16. See v. 164 Cong. Record, pages H137–60. On the same day the Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House to S. 139, to implement the use of Rapid DNA taking action on motions and amendments proposed thereto concerning FISA Amendments Reauthorization. See v. 164 Cong. Record, pages H137–60 and S153–65, January 11, 2018.

SELECTED MEASURE REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: On January 3, 2018, Chairman Royce, R-CA, filed a report to accompany H.R. 3776, a bill to support United States international cyber diplomacy, and for other purposes; with an amendment (H. Rept. 115-483). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: On January 3, 2018, Chairman Royce, R-CA, filed a report to accompany H.R. 3445, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115-484). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: On January 8, 2018, Chairman Hensarling, R-TX, filed a report to accompany H.R. 2954, a bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to specify which depository institutions are subject to the maintenance of records and disclosure requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (H. Rept. 115-485). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: On January 11, 2018, Chairman Gowdy, R-SC, filed a report to accompany H.R. 4043, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes; with amendments (H. Rept. 115-510). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: On January 11, 2018, Chairman Gowdy, R-SC, filed a report to accompany H.R. 1701, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government; with amendments (H. Rept. 115-511, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: On January 11, 2018, Chairman Gowdy, R-SC, filed a report to accompany H.R. 3737, a bill to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations (H. Rept. 115-512). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

SELECTED COMMITTEE ACTIONS/HEARINGS:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: On January 10, 2018, the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled "A Further Examination of Federal Reserve Reform Proposals". Testimony was heard from public witnesses including Dr. Dean Baker, Co-Director and Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Dr. Norbert J. Michel, Director, Center for Data Analysis, The Heritage Foundation, Mr. Alex J. Pollock, Distinguished Senior Fellow, R Street Institute, and Dr. George Selgin, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Monetary and Financial Alternatives, The Cato Institute.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: On January 9, 2018, the Committee held and concluded a hearing to examine combating money laundering and other forms of illicit finance, focusing on opportunities to reform and strengthen Bank Secrecy Act enforcement, including S. 2080, a bill to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking, after receiving testimony from Greg Baer, The Clearing House Association, Chevy Chase, Maryland; Dennis M. Lormel, DML Associates, LLC, Lansdowne, Virginia; and Heather A. Lowe, Global Financial Integrity, Washington, D.C.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: On January 9, 2018, the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled "Evaluating the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS): Challenges Posed by a Changing Global Economy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: On January 9, 2018, the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part III". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: On January 8, 2018, the Committee held and concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.
SELECTED MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE:

By Mr. EMMER:
**H.R. 4738.** A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide complaint and burden of proof requirements for certain actions for breach of fiduciary duty; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Introduced January 8, 2018.

By Mrs. BEATTY, D-OH:
**H.R. 4746.** A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to specify when bank holding companies may be subject to certain enhanced supervision; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 9, 2018.

By Mr. BUDD, R-NC:
**H.R. 4752.** A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a FinTech Leadership in Innovation Fund to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. LUCAS, D-NM:
**H.R. 4753.** A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to provide a written report, and for other purposes; to the House Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. DAVIDSON, R-OH:
**H.R. 4755.** A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to bring the non-monetary policy related functions of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System into the appropriations process, and for other purposes; to the House Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Ms. TENNEY, R-NY:
**H.R. 4756.** A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish a blackout period for public communications by the Federal Open Market Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. PITTENGER, R-NC:
**H.R. 4757.** A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to modify the appointment process for presidents of Federal Reserve Banks; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.
By Ms. TENNEY, R-NY:
H.R. 4758. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Federal Open Market Committee to establish interest rates on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve Bank by depository institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. WILLIAMS, R-TX:
H.R. 4759. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to revise the membership of Federal Open Market Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT, D-GA:

By Mr. KUSTOFF, R-TN (for himself and Ms. Sinema, D-AZ):
H.R. 4768. A bill to require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 11, 2018.

By Mrs. LOVE, R-UT (for herself, Mr. Gottheimer, and Mr. Meeks):
H.R. 4771. A bill to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 11, 2018.

By Mr. CONNOLLY, D-VA (for himself and 21 cosponsors):
H.R. 4775. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Introduced January 11, 2018.

By Mr. HILL, R-AR:
H.R. 4790. A bill to amend the Volcker rule to give the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System sole rulemaking authority, to exclude community banks from the requirements of the Volcker rule, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 12, 2018.

By Mr. MOONEY, R-WV:
H.R. 4791. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for salaries, financial disclosures, and office staff of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 12, 2018.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ, D-NY:
H.R. 4792. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for small businesses affected by hurricanes or other natural disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services. Introduced January 12, 2018.
SELECTED MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE:

By Mr. PORTMAN, R-OH (for himself and three cosponsors):
S. 2284. A bill to strengthen Buy American requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Introduced January 10, 2018.

By Mr. SCHATZ, D-HI (for himself and seven cosponsors):
S. 2295. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.0 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Introduced January 11, 2018.

By Mr. JOHNSON, D-WI:
S. 2296. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Introduced January 11, 2018.

SELECTED STUDIES/REPORTS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: See the Board’s Annual Report to Congress and other reports presented to Congress on the Board’s Publications website such as the Availability of Credit to Small Business and the Presidential $1 Coin Program. See also periodic required reports to Congress by the Board (Intranet site).


CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE: The CBO produces dozens of publications and legislative cost estimates every year on a variety of topics including those on the Budget, on the Economy, on Employment and Labor Markets, on Finance, on Housing, on Income Distribution, on Taxes, and on other topics. See especially its analysis of the American Health Care Act, H.R. 1628 as well as a CRS report on H.R. 1628.

SELECTED FEDERAL REGULATORY ACTIONS:

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: The Board is seeking comment on proposed guidance describing core principles of effective senior management, the management of business lines, and independent risk management and controls for large financial institutions. The proposal would apply to domestic bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of $50 billion or more; savings and loan holding companies with total consolidated assets of $50 billion or more; the combined U.S. operations of foreign banking organizations with combined U.S. assets of $50 billion or more; any state member bank subsidiaries of the foregoing; and systemically important nonbank financial companies designated by the Financial Stability Oversight Council for supervision by the Board. Comments must be received no later than March 15, 2018. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 1351-1362, January 11, 2018 (FR Doc No 2018-00294).

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY, BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION: The above agencies have amended their Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations to adjust the asset-size thresholds used to define `small bank" or `small savings association" and `intermediate small bank" or `intermediate small savings association." As required by the CRA regulations, the adjustment to the threshold amount is based on the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The FDIC is also amending its definition of `consumer loan" to correct a typographical error included in a CRA final rule issued on November 24, 2017. The rule is effective January 1, 2018. See v. 82 Fed. Register, pages 61143-61145, December 27, 2017 (FR Doc 2017-27813).

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: The Board has published a final rule in the Federal Register on October 11, 2013, regarding Regulatory Capital Rules. This publication corrects a typographical error in those rules whereby a transition provision was unintentionally deleted. The Board also published inconsistent
amendments to Regulation Q in final rules published in the Federal Register on May 1, 2014, and August 14, 2015, that pertain to firms identified as global systemically important bank holding companies (GSIBs). This publication resolves these inconsistencies. The correcting amendments are effective January 8, 2018. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 705-706, January 8, 2018 (FR Doc No 2018-00062).

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) has issued a final rule amending the official commentary that interprets the requirements of the Bureau's Regulation C (Home Mortgage Disclosure) to reflect the asset-size exemption threshold for banks, savings associations, and credit unions based on the annual percentage change in the average of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Based on the 2.1 percent increase in the average of the CPI-W for the 12-month period ending in November 2017, the exemption threshold is adjusted to increase to $45 million from $44 million. Therefore, banks, savings associations, and credit unions with assets of $45 million or less as of December 31, 2017, are exempt from collecting data in 2018. The final rule is effective January 1, 2018. See v. 82 Fed. Register, pages 61145-61147, December 27, 2017 (FR Doc No 2017-27879).

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION: The Bureau has amended the official commentary that interprets the requirements of the Bureau's Regulation Z (Truth in Lending) to reflect a change in the asset-size threshold for certain creditors to qualify for an exemption to the requirement to establish an escrow account for a higher-priced mortgage loan based on the annual percentage change in the average of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the 12-month period ending in November. The exemption threshold is adjusted to increase to $2.112 billion from $2.069 billion. The adjustment is based on the 2.1 percent increase in the average of the CPI-W for the 12-month period ending in November 2017. Therefore, creditors with assets of less than $2.112 billion (including assets of certain affiliates) as of December 31, 2017, are exempt, if other requirements of Regulation Z also are met, from establishing escrow accounts for higher-priced mortgage loans in 2018. This asset limit will also apply during a grace period, in certain circumstances, with respect to transactions with applications received before April 1 of 2019. The adjustment to the escrows asset-size exemption threshold will also increase a similar threshold for small-creditor portfolio and balloon-payment qualified mortgages. Balloon-payment qualified mortgages that satisfy all applicable criteria, including being made by creditors that have (together with certain affiliates) total assets below the threshold, are also excepted from the prohibition on balloon payments for high-cost mortgages. The final rule is effective January 1, 2018. See v. 82 Fed. Register, pages 61147-61151, December 27, 2017 (FR Doc No 2017-27897).

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: The Board has issued its semi-annual regulatory agenda under the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Board's Statement of Policy Regarding Expanded Rulemaking Procedures. The Board anticipates having under consideration regulatory matters as indicated during the period November 1, 2017, through April 30, 2018. The next agenda will be published in spring 2018. Comments about the form or content of the agenda may be submitted any time during the next six months. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 2013-2015, January 12, 2018 (FR Doc No 2017-28245).
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: The Board has issued a final rule amending its rules of practice and procedure to adjust the amount of each civil money penalty ("CMP") provided by law within its jurisdiction to account for inflation as required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015. The final rule is effective on January 10, 2018. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 1182-1184, January 10, 2018 (FR Doc No 2018-00227).

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM: The Board is proposing to revise its Regulation M, which was issued to implement the Consumer Leasing Act (CLA). Title X of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) transferred rulemaking authority for a number of consumer financial protection laws, including the CLA, from the Board to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau). Under section 1029 of the Dodd-Frank Act, however, the Board retains authority to issue rules for motor vehicle dealers that are predominantly engaged in the sale and servicing of motor vehicles, the leasing and servicing of motor vehicles, or both, and are otherwise not subject to the Bureau's regulatory authority. The Board is proposing to revise its Regulation M and the accompanying Official Staff Commentary to reflect this change in the persons covered by the Board's Regulation M. Comments must be received on or before March 5, 2018. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 286-291, January 3, 2018 (FR Doc No 2017-27325).


FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION: The FDIC seeks to update its Statement of Policy (SOP), which is issued pursuant to Section 19 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDI Act) (Section 19). Section 19 prohibits, without the prior written consent of the FDIC, any person from participating in banking who has been convicted of a crime of dishonesty or breach of trust or money laundering, or who has entered a pretrial diversion or similar program in connection with the prosecution for such an offense. Based upon its experience with the application of the SOP since 1998, the FDIC is now proposing to revise and issue an updated SOP and rescind the current SOP, and is seeking comments on the proposed revisions by issuing this Federal Register Notice. Notably, in addition to minor format and technical changes, as well as clarifying changes, the FDIC is proposing to expand its current de minimis exception to encompass insufficient funds checks of aggregate moderate value; small dollar, simple theft; and isolated, minor offenses committed by young adults. These carefully measured changes are intended to reduce regulatory burden by decreasing the number of covered offenses that will require an application, while ensuring that insured institutions are not subject to risk by convicted persons. Comments must be received on or before March 9, 2018. See v. 83 Fed. Register, pages 807-813, January 8, 2018 (FR Doc No 2018-28222).
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION: The FDIC is adjusting the maximum amount of each civil money penalty (CMP) within its jurisdiction to account for inflation. This action is required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Adjustment Act). The rule is effective January 15, 2018. See v. 82 Fed. Register, pages 1519-1525, January 12, 2018 (FR Doc No 2018-00403).

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY: The Secretary of the Treasury (the "Secretary"), as Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, is proposing, in consultation with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"), an amendment to the regulation implementing the qualified financial contract ("QFC") recordkeeping requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act" or the "Act") that would extend the compliance dates of the regulation. Written comments must be received by January 29, 2018. See v. 81 Fed. Register, pages 61505-61507, December 28, 2017 (FR Doc No 2017-28073).

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION: This document makes technical corrections to regulations that were published in the Federal Register on October 30, 2017. The FDIC added Part 382 to its regulations to improve the resolvability of systemically important U.S. banking organizations and systemically important foreign banking organizations and enhance the resilience and the safety and soundness of certain State savings associations and State-chartered banks and made certain conforming changes to Part 329. This document is being published to make technical corrections to certain rules under Parts 329 and 382 and make effective amendatory instruction 6 in the previously published regulation. The rule is effective January 1, 2018. Amendatory instruction 6 in the final rule published October 30, 2017, at 82 FR 50228, is effective January 1, 2018. See v. 81 Fed. Register, page 61443, December 28, 2017 (FR Doc 2017-27971).

FEDERAL BANKING AGENCIES: A website of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis lays out recent updates to Federal Banking Regulations. See also the news releases from the public websites of the FRB, the OCC, the FDIC, the CFPB, the CFTC and the SEC.

HOW TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS:

Most of the legislative and regulatory material noted above can be obtained on the Internet (see links within each item) through Congress.gov, the legislative database of the Library of Congress, or through the United States Government Publishing Office via FDsys and GovInfo.gov. Congressional hearings are normally published several months after a hearing occurs, but prepared statements of witnesses, as well as archived webcasts, can be obtained on most Congressional committee websites. Board prepared statements before Congress and press releases on its regulatory actions are available on the Board's public Web site. Selected unofficial transcripts of congressional hearings may also be available on certain commercial databases.

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