Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Legislative and Regulatory Report

A monthly review of the latest information of importance to retirement plan sponsors

July 2026

Inside this issue

Senate panel advances Sonderling for Labor Secretary

On July 30, the Senate HELP Committee voted 12-11 along party lines to advance acting Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling's nomination to lead the Department of Labor, sending his nomination to the full Senate. Sonderling has led the department on an interim basis since April after former Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer stepped down.

Rep. Neal and Sen. Wyden introduce bills targeting mega-IRAs

On July 22, Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), the top Democrats on the House and Senate tax-writing committees, introduced legislation that would bar additional contributions to Roth and traditional IRAs if an individual's combined IRA and vested defined contribution plan balances exceeded $10 million in the prior year. The restriction would apply only to taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income above $400,000 for single filers, $425,000 for heads of household and $450,000 for joint filers. Similar proposals were advanced during the Biden and Obama administrations, but neither became law. Biden-era proposals, including a House-passed version of Build Back Better, also targeted retirement accounts above $10 million and would have limited additional contributions and required distributions from excess balances, while the Obama administration proposed capping further tax-favored retirement accumulation once balances exceeded a separate annuity-based threshold.

SEC proposes default e-delivery framework for investor disclosures

On July 16, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed Regulation E-Delivery, which would let issuers, broker/dealers, investment advisers and others use electronic delivery as the default way to satisfy disclosure obligations under the federal securities laws while preserving investors' ability to request paper copies. The proposal would replace the SEC's older guidance-based approach and apply across a broad set of disclosures, including prospectuses, fund shareholder reports, proxy statements, trade confirmations, Form CRS disclosures and Form ADV Part 2 brochures. Investors currently receiving paper documents would get 2 paper notices before any transition to e-delivery and would be able to opt out, and the SEC will take public comments 60 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register. Nationwide® supports this proposal and looks forward to its finalization.

Agencies release regulatory agendas

On July 3, federal agencies released their updated agendas for 2026, giving an early read on where the administration may focus next, although the timelines can move and the agenda does not capture every active item. For insurance and retirement, Treasury flagged several items to watch. On insurance, Treasury is targeting action on short-term, limited-duration insurance, which could reopen the debate over how broadly that coverage can be offered outside the Affordable Care Act framework. Treasury also is eyeing proposed rules to facilitate the use of insurance-dedicated ETFs within variable contracts, a change aimed at expanding investment options for those products. On the retirement side, the DOL points to more activity on fiduciary duties in selecting designated investment alternatives, an item tied to the administration's push on expanding access to alternative assets in 401(k)s and on revisiting prohibited transaction exemption procedures to reduce the burden on applicants. More broadly, the update suggests continued interest in easing some prior requirements while moving forward with targeted insurance and retirement-related rulemaking.

References and source material used in this publication

"Senate HELP Committee Votes to Approve Trump Admin Nominees," help.senate.gov/rep/newsroom/press/senate-help-committee-votes-to-approve-trump-admin-nominees (July 30, 2026).

"Wyden, Neal Introduce Bill to Crack Down on Mega Retirement Account," finance.senate.gov/ranking-members-news/wyden-neal-introduce-bill-to-crack-down-on-mega-retirement-account (July 22, 2026).

"SEC Proposes New E-Delivery Approach to Make Information More Readily Accessible and Useful for Investors," sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026-67-sec-proposes-new-e-delivery-approach-make-information-more-readily-accessible-useful-investors (July 16, 2026).

"2026 Regulatory Plan and the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions," reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain (July 3, 2026).

Keeping watch

You can find the most recent information on issues affecting governmental defined contribution plans, plan sponsors and plan participants on the Employer page of our plan website, NRSforu.com/plansponsor.

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