

Defense

Senate Will Debate Sexual-Assault Legislation by Mid-February

The announcement comes as Harry Reid Monday outlined the Senate's schedule almost the next month.



Majority Leader Harry Reid went through a laundry list of proposals he wants senators to tackle before the next state work period (Images)



By Jordain Carney
January 27, 2014

The Senate over the next month will tackle legislation dealing with sexual assault in the military, Majority Leader Harry Reid announced Monday.

"The Senate will also debate legislation to effectively prevent and punish sexual assault in the nation's Armed Forces from the Senate floor.

Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Claire McCaskill currently have dueling proposals on how to increase safeguards for sexual-assault victims. Gillibrand's proposal would remove the chain of command's power to decide whether to prosecute. It's a move McCaskill—and leaders at the Pentagon—have campaigned hard against.

Reid didn't specify which bill senators would take on, or if both would be debated. He came out in support of the legislation in November.

Sexual-assault legislation is just one of several issues the Nevada Democrat wants to cross off his list before his next state work period, scheduled to start Feb. 17.

Members will also consider "a number of critical national security and judicial nominations." The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved John Roth's nomination to be the next inspector general for the Health and Human Services Department earlier this month.

Roth's nomination still awaits a vote before the full Senate.



When States of the Union Matter and When They Don't

BY ALEX S. WALD