

**ALAMEDA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 13, 2014  
1:30 P.m.**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair  
Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Location: **Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5<sup>th</sup> floor**  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

**Summary/Action Minutes**

Supervisor Keith Carson called the meeting to order.

**I. Federal Legislative Update**

The House and Senate are both in session this week and will adjourn this weekend for the Martin Luther King recess until January 27, 2014.

Both the House and Senate will take up the FY14 omnibus appropriations package this week. In addition, the House will also consider a bill (H.R. 3662) that would require more transparency in the operation of the health benefit exchanges under the health care law.

**Unemployment Insurance Extension**

Last week Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid filed a motion to cut off debate on an extension of Unemployment Insurance, which could be voted on this evening. Senate Republican and Democratic leadership are in negotiations on a list of amendments. These negotiations could lead to postponing the vote until at least tomorrow.

Last week, the Senate voted to move forward with debate on the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act (S.1845) that would retroactively extend emergency unemployment benefits from December 28, 2013 for an additional three months. Six (6) Republicans voted to move forward, but said they would only vote for final passage if the extension had an offset. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the legislation would cost \$6.4 billion over 10 years.

The emergency program provides four tiers of extra unemployment benefits to workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits that last 26 weeks:

- The first tier is available in all states and provides as many as 14 additional weeks of benefits.
- The second tier adds another 14 weeks for states with unemployment rates of at least 6 percent.
- The third tier adds another 9 weeks if the state's unemployment rate is at least 7 percent.
- The fourth tier adds another 10 weeks if the state's unemployment rate is at least 9 percent.

Senator Boxer has signed onto the bill as a co-sponsor.

**FY14 Appropriations**

The current Continuing Resolution expires on January 15. We expect the Appropriations Committee to file the omnibus bill later today. In order to give Congress enough time to process the omnibus, the House plans

to take up a short-term CR through the 18<sup>th</sup> tomorrow. The House would likely pass the omnibus on the 15<sup>th</sup> and then send to the Senate for a vote on Thursday or Friday.

### **Farm Bill**

Negotiations on the House and Senate farm bills continued over the past week. Although there are still disagreements between Democrats and Republicans, negotiators finally reached an agreement on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) funding levels as well as crop insurance programs. In regards to SNAP, the program will receive an approximately \$9 billion cut over the next 10 years. The cuts come from the “Heat and Eat Program,” which sets a minimum threshold requiring states to at least distribute \$20 in fuel aid to qualify for the utility allowance. The change to the program would reduce, but not eliminate, SNAP payments based on heat-and-eat eligibility.

### **Immigration**

The Senate continues to wait for House action before there can be a conference on a House immigration bill and the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) passed by the Senate 68-32 on June 27, 2013.

The House Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees have voted out a series of topic-specific bills (border security, E-Verify, agricultural non-immigrant visas, and H-1B visas) and may consider a version of the DREAM Act for undocumented immigrants who arrived as children.

The House “Group of Eight” that was working on a bipartisan comprehensive reform proposal with a “pathway to citizenship” has all but dissolved. No progress was made during the August recess, and the Republican members have left the group.

On October 2, 2013, House Democrats introduced a comprehensive immigration reform bill, H.R. 15, sponsored by Rep. Garcia of Florida. The bill incorporates verbatim the provisions approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in May. As of December 18<sup>th</sup>, the House bill has 193 co-sponsors, including most of the House Democrats and 3 House Republicans – Reps. Denham and Valadao of California, and Rep. Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

There is a possibility of movement on immigration reform in early 2014, including after primary elections are held in May or June, 2014, which would protect members in vulnerable districts from challenges on the right.

#### **Purpose:**

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal legislative update**

**This item was informational only and required no Committee action.**

## **II. State Legislative Update**

### **Budget Update**

Last week the Governor released the State spending plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The fiscal outlook by Governor Brown and the Department of Finance (DOF) is similar to optimistic assumptions released by the LAO last month. According to the DOF, there is \$6.3 billion in additional revenue available than originally predicted. The majority of this income is from increased personal income taxes through capital gains taxes.

In addition, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has scheduled a webinar to review the proposed budget that is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2014 at 9:00 am.

### **LAO Budget Summary**

This afternoon the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) released its overview of the Governor's Budget. Overall, the LAO believes the budget proposal places California on a stronger fiscal footing by paying down debt and limiting ongoing spending. In addition to the fiscal review, the LAO's summary includes a lengthy discussion of the Governor's new rainy day fund proposal and ACA 4, which is on the November ballot.

### **General Plan Guidelines Update**

The Strategic Growth Council has announced a series of January workshops for the next round of Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program grants. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research announced it plans to piggyback on to these workshops to review proposed changes to the General Plan Guidelines. The General Plan Guideline discussion will be tacked on to the end of the grant workshop. The only Bay Area workshop will be held on January 28, 2014 at the Solano County Events Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### **Purpose:**

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State legislative update**

**This item was informational only and required no Committee action.**

### **Request for Legislation Position – Action Item**

#### **i. AB 966 (Bonta) Prisoner Protections for Family and Community Health Act**

*Recommendation: **Support:** Alex Briscoe, Director, Health Care Services Agency*

#### **Purpose:**

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

**Recommendation from PAL Committee: Approve. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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