

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

**Monday, February 24, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

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

Location: **Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th 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. The House plans on bringing to the floor a series of bills that are intended to curb executive actions by the Obama administration, including several dealing with the IRS. The Senate will spend a majority of the week debating a veterans' benefits omnibus bill, which would include authorization for mandatory programs at the VA and extend benefits for healthcare, education, and employment benefits for veterans.

S. 1985 – Veterans Omnibus Bill

The Senate will take up a veterans' benefits bill later this week. The legislation would:

- Improve veterans' health care through increased access to complementary and alternative medicine, chiropractic care and transportation services.
- Improve VA's claims system in part by requiring quarterly reports to Congress on efforts to eliminate a backlog of benefits claims by 2015.
- Expand access to education benefits for veterans and their survivors.
- Ensure veterans receive consistent access to the benefits they have earned.
- Assist veterans suffering from reproductive issues in starting their families.
- Renew provisions from the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, including a two-year extension for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program.

“Recidivism Reduction” and Public Safety Act of 2013

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to mark up the “Recidivism Reduction” and Public Safety Act of 2013 (S. 1675) on February 27, 2014. The bill would allow inmates to earn sentence-reduction credit for completing programming aimed at helping them re-enter society.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's office has indicated that it may be willing to push for more bipartisan legislation, including a prison reform bill, which has the support of Democrats and some Republicans. Although no specifics have been released, the bill would likely be the “Smarter Sentencing Act” (S. 1410), which would give federal judges more discretion in sentencing those convicted of non-violent offenses.

Tax Reform

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp plans to release his blueprint for reforming the tax code. Federal advocates are monitoring any movement on tax reform because of potential changes that could be included to cap or eliminate the deduction for municipal bond interest.

House and Senate FY15 Hearings

A number of House Appropriations Subcommittees as well as the Senate Armed Services Committee will be holding hearings this week on the FY15 budget, although the president has not released his budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski has said that the Senate Appropriations Committee will wait until after the president releases his budget to begin hearings for FY15.

White House to Announce “My Brother’s Keeper” Initiative

President Obama is expected to hold an event at the White House on Thursday, February 27, 2014, which will bring foundations and companies together to test a number of strategies to support young minority men by taking steps to keep them in schools and out of the criminal justice system. The program will consist of two main parts; 1) Businesses and foundations will join together to test strategies aimed at “making sure children arrive at school ready to learn and reducing negative interactions with the criminal justice system.”, 2) The President will launch an internal administration effort to more rigorously evaluate what programs work best at helping young minority males. A number of different agencies including the Justice Department, the Department of Education, and the Labor Department will be involved.

Purpose:

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

II. State Legislative Update

Bill Introduction Deadline

Friday, January 21, 2014, was the deadline to introduce new legislation for the 2014 year. There are a few exceptions to this deadline for committee bills, Constitutional amendments, and urgency bills. To date there are 1,300 new Assembly bills and 630 new Senate bills.

County Sponsored Bills

The following is an update of the status and bill numbers for the County’s legislative proposals.

Safe Needle Disposal – AB 1893

Author: Assemblyman Mark Stone

Co-Sponsor/Supporter: California Product Stewardship Council

Status: Assemblyman Stone is carrying AB 1893 this year pertaining to the disposal of used sharps, but has not yet finalized language. He intends to include the following language:

- Requiring that a container be provided when sharps are purchased along with information about how to safely dispose of used sharps.
- Requiring that the Department of Industrial Relations specifically track needle stick injury data.

- Mandate that entities dispensing sharps for home-use including doctors and pharmacies provide information about the safe disposal of sharps.

AB 1893 will be eligible to be heard in Policy Committee on March 22, 2014. It will likely be referred to the Assembly Environmental Quality and Toxic Materials Committee.

Safe Medication Disposal – SB 1014

Author: Senator Hannah Beth Jackson

Co-Sponsor: California Product Stewardship Council, Clean Water Action, City and County of San Francisco

Status: SB 1014 is modeled after Alameda County's drug disposal ordinance. It will be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 26, 2014. Senator Jackson plans to hold a media call pertaining to the bill the morning of March 25th and may hold a press conference prior to the bill going to the full floor of the Senate in May. Heavy opposition to the measure from pharmaceutical manufacturers and as such is expected.

Healthcare for All Residents Regardless of Immigration Status – SB 1005

Author: Senator Ricardo Lara

Status: SB 1005 would create a program to provide health coverage for individuals who would be eligible for Medi-Cal, but are not due to their immigration status. The next steps are to review the language to ensure that it is in alignment with the County's proposal.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training

Author: None

Status: In working with Assemblywoman Buchanan, the Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, her staff, and the advocate for the American Heart Association, it was determined that a new mandate would not pass in Policy Committee.

Professional Licenses- AB 2396

Author: Assemblyman Rob Bonta

Status: AB 2396 was introduced as a spot bill to help remove barriers to licensing individuals in various professions when they have a prior criminal conviction. The next steps are drafting language and gathering background materials.

Protection of Local Revenues – SCA 11

Author: Senator Loni Hancock

Status: Language will be included to prevent the State from capturing local sales tax revenues and including them in State formulas, effectively reducing aid to local governments from the State. The measure currently lowers the vote threshold for local agencies imposing, extending, or increasing a special tax from 2/3 to 55%.

Double Fine Zones for Rural Roads

Author: None

Status: Senate Transportation Committee rules require all double fine zone proposals to meet specific thresholds in order to be considered by the Committee. The Assembly Transportation Committee also follows these thresholds. Included in these thresholds is the requirement that both collisions per mile and head-on collisions be 1.5 times the statewide average. Public Works has revived the thresholds listed in statute and committee policy and has determined the rural roads at issue do not meet these standards. Based on this review, it was decided not to pursue this proposal at this time.

Double Fine Zones near Schools – SB 1151

Author: Senator Anthony Cannella

Status: Senator Cannella (R-Ceres) has introduced SB 1151, which would, on a statewide basis, double the fines imposed for specified violations that occur in a posted School Zone. SB 1151 would place any revenue generated in the State Transportation Fund to be used for the Active Transportation Program. Alameda County proposed to re-enact the school double fine zone pilot program that sunset in 2007. The next steps are to contact Senator Cannella's office about Alameda County's interest in this proposal.

LAO's Budget Analyses

This past week the LAO has released several documents analyzing the Governor's Budget proposals including Cap-and-Trade, Human Services, and Health. These analyses are the basis for the Budget Subcommittee review. All of these reports can be found at the LAO's website (www.lao.ca.gov).

RDA Dissolution

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6, Chaired by Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner will hold an informational hearing on the status RDA dissolution process. One of the main topics to be addressed is the lack of action by the Department of Finance in finalizing Long Range Property Management Plans. There are over 230 plans that have been submitted where the successor agency has no pending litigation, but only 65 have been finalized. This includes Alameda County's management plan that remains in limbo at DOF. While this hearing will put pressure on DOF to approve these plans, legislation has been recently introduced to exempt the property management plans from the January 1, 2015 deadline. If the plans are not approved by January 1, 2015 the law requires the disposal of the property.

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Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

- i. AB 1902 (Bonta) Eliminating Part Day State Preschool Parent Fees

*Recommendation: **Support:** Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency on behalf of the Early Care and Education Planning Council*

Purpose:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas are available via Internet at: www.acgov.org