

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

**Monday, March 10, 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 Wilma Chan called the meeting to order.

I. Federal Legislative Update

The House and Senate are both in session this week and the House will consider a compromise bill that would change the sustainable growth rate formula and be a permanent solution on payments to Medicare physicians. The House will also consider a bill that would allow Congress to take legal action against the executive branch for failing to faithfully follow the law, such as deadlines set under the Affordable Care Act. The Senate has a scheduled a vote today on a bill that would retain the military chain of command in prosecuting sexual-assault cases while making changes to how those cases are handled. Later this week, the Senate will consider a bill that would reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.

Child Care Development Block Grants

The Senate will vote to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program. The program provides money to states, territories, tribes and tribal organizations for child-care assistance for low-income families. The bill would make significant changes to the CCDBG Act by adding new requirements related to state health and safety standards, annual unannounced on-site monitoring visits for licensed providers, criminal background checks and professional development for child care providers, state early learning and development guidelines, continuity of care for participating children, and increased consumer education for parents.

Unemployment Insurance Extension

Senator Harry Reid is working to gain Republican support to pass the Unemployment Insurance Extension bill before March 14, 2014. Several Senate Republicans introduced their own unemployment extension bill last Thursday, which would extend unemployment benefits for five months.

Both the Democratic and Republican bill would retroactively provide benefits to December 28, 2014, however the main difference between the two bills is how they are funded. The Democratic bill would use savings from the farm bill (approximately \$12 billion) to pay for unemployment insurance, while the Republican bill would use a combination of offsets and revenue generators to pay for the five-month extension, which costs approximately \$10 billion. The Republican legislation would also include various program changes, such as a requirement that applicants be assessed for possible enrollment in job training programs and a provision banning benefits for unemployed workers who fail to take or apply for suitable jobs.

FY15 Budget Hearings

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is scheduled to testify Wednesday before the House Ways and means Committee on the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY 15) budget request for HHS.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will testify Wednesday before the House Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Subcommittee. He also plans to testify Thursday before the Senate Appropriations THUD Subcommittee.

Senate Climate Change

Several Democratic senators plan to speak through Monday night to discuss the scientific proof that climate change exists. The hope of the discussions is to convince Republicans that climate change is real and Congress should do something to address the issue. Among the senators who will be speaking is Senator Barbara Boxer.

MAP-21 Reauthorization Hearing

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Highways and Transit Subcommittee will have a hearing on the Transportation Department's implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which expires at the end of September 2014. The hearing will focus on the administration's FY15 budget requests for the program and will include testimony from acting Under Secretary for Policy at the Department of Transportation, Peter Rogoff, Greg Nadeau, Acting Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and Theresa McMillan, Acting Administration of the Federal Transit Administration.

Purpose:

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

II. State Legislative Update

Revenues

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) estimates that personal income tax revenue receipts for February came in at \$700 million higher than the Administration's most recent estimates, a 52% jump over the forecast released in January.

California Water Foundation

California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban County Caucus (UCC) and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are hosting two policy workshops to develop proposals aimed at assisting local governments in managing groundwater sustainability. These workshops are being held to assist the California Water Foundation in developing recommendations for the Governor to consider as part of the Administration's effort to reform groundwater management that will be included in a budget trailer bill. The workshops will be held on March 13th at the CSAC Conference Center and on March 20th at the RCRC Board Room.

LAO Transportation Analysis:

The LAO released its analysis of the Governor's proposed transportation budget. The findings and recommendations made by the LAO include the following:

- **Loan Repayment:** The Governor's budget includes a \$337 million payment of a portion of the general fund loans owed the State Highway Account. Of the amount repaid, \$100 million is

directed to cities and counties for local streets and roads projects. The LAO questions whether the proposed use of the repaid funds is the most cost effective approach and urges the Legislature to consider if the amount would be better spent on repairs to the state highway system.

- **High-Speed Rail:** The LAO recommends withholding funding on High-Speed Rail until the Administration provides a funding plan that identifies all funding sources that will be used to close the \$21 billion shortfall facing the initial operating segment.

LAO Child Care Analysis

The Governor's Proposed Budget contains \$1.7 billion for child care, a \$64 million (\$7 million General Fund) increase from the current year funding. It contains \$509 million for state preschool, an increase in \$2 million from the current year. The Legislative Analyst's Office believes the Governor's proposed child care funding budget for 2014-15 will come a few million dollars short of covering expenses. The proposed budget does not contain policy changes, but attempts to estimate caseloads as well as costs per child for the 2014-15 budget year. The LAO believes that the Governor is overestimating caseloads while underestimating costs per child.

Purpose:

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Request for Legislation Position – Action Items

- i. AB 1303 (Hall) Horse Racing: Northern Zone: Fairs: Satellite Racing
Recommendation: **Support:** Nate Miley, District 4, Board of Supervisors
- ii. AB 1883 (Skinner) Financing Clean Energy
Recommendation: **Support:** Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency
- iii. SB 1000 (Monning) Public Health: Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: Safety Warnings
Recommendation: **Support:** Alex Briscoe, Director, Health Care Services Agency
- iv. SB 1151 (Canella) Vehicles: School Zone Fines
Recommendation: **Support:** Daniel Woldesenbet, Director, Public Works Agency

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- Other:

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