

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

Monday, March 7, 2016
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

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House has a district work period this week, therefore is not in session. The Senate will continue to focus on legislation to expand treatment for opioid addiction, finalize a deal to pass energy legislation, and address a measure to help Flint, Michigan and its tainted drinking water.

Budget and Appropriations

Last week, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid said that Senate Democrats would not support any of the annual spending bills unless the bills reflect the totals agreed to in last fall's Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA). Members of the House Republican Study Committee (RSC) have proposed writing bills at levels \$30 billion under the \$1.070 trillion level for discretionary funds called for in the BBA. Both Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have said they intend to adhere to the numbers enacted last year.

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price released a draft of the FY17 House Budget Resolution. The budget totals \$1.070 trillion, which is consistent with the discretionary levels agreed upon in the BBA. However, Chairman Price has said he is willing to cut the additional \$30 billion in entitlement spending as requested from the RSC. Chairman Price has also said he is open to potential changes to the resolution before the Committee marks up the legislation later this month.

Today, Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Mike Enzi, announced that the Senate would postpone action on the FY17 budget resolution until April at the earliest, though discussions on it will continue. Chairman Enzi argued that the Senate can pass appropriations bills even without a budget resolution because the top-line spending numbers were set in last year's budget deal.

Senate Opioid Abuse Legislation

This week, the Senate will continue to debate bipartisan legislation, S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA). The legislation authorizes, but does not appropriate, funds for the Attorney General to award grants to educational and practical efforts that address the national epidemics of prescription opioid and heroin use. Democrats, including bill sponsor Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, were pushing for a vote on an amendment from Senator Jeanne Shaheen that would appropriate \$600 million in emergency funding. However, Republicans seeking to adhere to the regular appropriations process pushed back on the amendment, noting that there was approximately \$400 million available from the FY16 omnibus bill. Democrats were not satisfied with this previously appropriated funding, citing authorized grants that already account for the funds in their entirety. The amendment ultimately failed by a vote of 48-46.

Criminal Justice Reform

Last week, Senators Grassley and Durbin, sponsors of the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S.2123) reached an agreement on changes aimed at garnering conservative support of the legislation. White House staff has also been a part of these discussions and are supportive of the changes. These provisions include easing mandatory minimums in certain cases, allowing inmates convicted of specified drug crimes to petition courts for shortened prison terms, and shortening the sentences of particular cases for defendants previously convicted of acts such as carrying or using weapons while committing serious drug crimes.

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 – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Today, Assemblymember Rendon was sworn in as Speaker of the Assembly. After he took the oath of office, Speaker Rendon addressed the Assembly and made it clear that poverty will be of great importance during his tenure. It is expected that some changes in committee chairmanships will be announced this afternoon.

County Sponsored Legislation

AB 1702 (Stone) is scheduled to be heard on March 15th in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and will then be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee. The other county sponsored bills are currently in the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Managed Care Organization Fix

Last week, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed the Managed Care Organization (MCO) fix. These bills, along with the California End of Life Act, which was passed last year, will go into effect 90-days after both houses adjourn the special session. The Assembly adjourned the special session on Thursday and the Senate is expected to do so today.

Health Care Special Session

In addition to the MCO fix and the End of Life Act, there was a package of tobacco related bills introduced in the Health Care Special Session. These bills were passed out of the Assembly on Thursday and will next need to be heard in the Senate. Upon passage of these bills, it is expected that the Senate will adjourn the special session so that all enacted bills can go into effect in 90-days.

Legislative Calendar

The Legislative Spring Recess will begin upon adjournment of session on Thursday, March 17, 2016 and reconvene on Monday, March 28, 2016. Upon returning from Spring Recess the Legislature will be focused on hearing and passing out bills in policy committees prior to the April 22nd deadline to report fiscal bills to the Appropriations Committee.

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 Items

i. [SB 1024](#) (Hancock) Developmental services: supported employment

*Recommendation: **Support:** Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director, Health Care Services Agency*

ii. [SB 1053](#) (Leno) Housing discrimination: applications

*Recommendation: **Support:** Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director, Health Care Services Agency and Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency*

iii. [SB 1150](#) (Leno) Mortgages and deeds of trust: mortgage servicers and lenders: successors in interest

*Recommendation: **Support:** Keith Carson, District 5, Board of Supervisors*

iv. [AB 1810](#) (Levine) California Seed Exchange Democracy Act

*Recommendation: **Support:** Richard Valle, District 2, Board of Supervisors*

Purpose:

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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