

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

**Monday, May 11, 2015
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 and Senate are both in session for the next two weeks and will recess for the Memorial Day District Work Period to begin on May 22. This week, the House will take up its FY16 Defense Authorization Act and a bill that would ban late-term abortions.

The House may also consider the Senate-passed measure to give Congress the authority to review any nuclear agreement with Iran. The Senate has scheduled a cloture vote tomorrow on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1314, the legislative vehicle for a measure that would give President Obama fast-track authority to negotiate trade deals such as the Trans Pacific Partnership.

House and Senate Appropriations

House appropriators are returning to work this week and will likely begin discussions regarding how to advance another set of spending bills to the House floor. The House passed the Energy and Water and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs appropriations bills two weeks ago. House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers will be focused on marking up the \$55.3 billion Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development spending bill on Wednesday. The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill will be marked up in the subcommittee on Thursday.

However, Republican leaders have not yet announced when the other appropriations bills will move to the floor. The first two spending bills revealed the fragility of support for bills written to comply with the Budget Control Act (BCA).

On the Senate side, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Thad Cochran is developing a similar set of 302 (b) allocations that the panel plans to approve before the Senate leaves May 21 for the Memorial Day recess. Approval of those allocations would then set the stage for the first bills to come to the Senate floor this summer.

Both the House and Senate are following the \$1.017 trillion discretionary spending allocation called for in the 2011 BCA and reflected in Republicans' FY 2016 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), which was adopted the week of May 4.

Chairman Rogers has said it will be “very tough” to pass bills written to the sequestration levels forced by the BCA. The Obama administration has also warned appropriators that the White House will veto those bills that lock in the spending caps. Both Democrats and Republicans have signaled that they want to try to negotiate a follow-on deal to the two-year Bipartisan Budget Agreement (Murray-Ryan deal) that provided temporary relief from the BCA.

National Defense Authorization Act

This week, the House will take up the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes \$515 billion in spending for national defense and an additional \$89.2 billion for war funding, for a total of \$604.2 billion.

The House Rules Committee will meet tomorrow to decide which of the more than 300 amendments will be allowed in the FY16 Defense Authorization. Many of the amendments are attempts to change the course of U.S. policy toward Iran, Russia, as well as immigration.

Infrastructure Week

It is Infrastructure Week in Washington, D.C. Transportation advocates have planned a week of events to highlight the need for investing in the nation's infrastructure as the current transportation funding measure is scheduled to expire on May 31. We expect a short-term extension to be announced as soon as this week, which could run through the calendar year.

NACo has scheduled two events this week to discuss the impact felt at the county level due to federal inaction on the Highway Trust Fund and demonstrate how states and local governments are meeting transportation infrastructure needs while also highlighting the importance of long-term certainty at the federal level.

Judiciary Hearing—SAK Backlog

On May 20, 2015 the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution will hold a hearing on rape kit backlogs as a human rights issue.

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 –Platinum Advisors

Purpose:

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

May Revise

The Governor will release the May Revision on Thursday morning and no details have been leaked. Matching the Legislative Analyst Office's numbers, the State Controller released revenue estimate for the month of April coming in at \$1.8 billion higher than anticipated, bringing the cumulative fiscal year total to around \$3 billion higher than January projections.

Child Poverty

Perhaps as a way of reaffirming priorities prior to release of the May Revision, the Senate Select Committee on Women and Inequality met to discuss child poverty and ways to address deep poverty among women and children last Monday. Senator Carol Liu as well as other lawmakers expressed frustration that this particular discussion is far too familiar with little evident progress. Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair of the Committee

and several witnesses from anti-poverty organizations pointed out that although some effort has been made to address child poverty in California, it has not been a steady, broad based, sustained effort. Instead, the endeavor has been dependent on the status of the State Budget and wavered during the recession, the time when families in poverty needed the most assistance.

The example of success that seemed to resonate most with committee members was Tony Blair's 1999 commitment to halve child poverty in the United Kingdom by 2010. He was successful and went about this task directly – he provided those in poverty with larger financial benefits. Between 1997 and 2010, financial support had at minimum, increased by twenty percent.

Ways listed reduce poverty in California were largely familiar:

- Eliminate the maximum family grant rule in the CalWORKs program
- Repeal the 24 month clock in the CalWORKs program
- Implement a state earned-income tax credit
- Raise the minimum wage
- Provide affordable health care, housing and child care
- Provide easy, convenient access to transportation
- Increase the number of subsidized employment and child care slots

Health Coverage Undocumented Immigrants

SB 4 (Lara) was sent to the Suspense File in the Senate Appropriations Committee last week. The cost estimate for the measure has gone down since last year's SB 1005, as SB 4 doesn't include the funding of subsidies for those who are eligible for Covered California.

The Senate Appropriations analysis approaches the potential costs from two angles – one if the President's Executive action that would cover the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) population is upheld, the other if it is not. Without implementation of the order, it is estimated that Medi-Cal spending would increase between \$2080 million and \$740 million annually. If the Executive Order is implemented, the cost is reduced to between \$175 million and \$455 million annually. As the measure contains no funding source, the Legislature would have to prioritize it quite highly in order to move it forward.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation Position – Action Items

- i. [AB 1436](#) (Burke) **In-Home Support Services: authorized representative**
Recommendation: Support: Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency
- ii. [AB 1051](#) (Maienschein) **Human Trafficking** – *continued from May 4, 2015*
Recommendation: Support: Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney, Alameda County

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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