

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

Monday, May 5, 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**

**I. Federal Legislative Update**

The House and Senate are both in session this week. The House of Representatives will vote on several bills including legislation to give businesses a permanent tax credit for research and development. The House will also vote on two resolutions dealing with the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative nonprofit groups. The Senate hopes to reach an agreement to take up an energy bill sponsored by Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Rob Portman. As part of the deal, the Senate might hold a separate vote on authorizing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

**Shaheen-Portman Bill: Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act**

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014 (S. 2262) is a bipartisan bill that would increase energy efficiency in buildings, industry and the federal government. The legislation would require the Energy Department to provide assistance to states adopting new energy standards that align with updated national model building codes. Specifically, the Department of Energy (DOE) would be required to develop and periodically update voluntary efficiency standards and targets through a consensus process in order to achieve targets in potential savings and cost related to lighting, windows, insulation, appliances and improvements in heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

The legislation would authorize \$200 million to provide incentive funding and training grants to aid state development and implementation of the standards. States would be allowed to share grant funding with local governments seeking to implement similar building standards. In addition, the bill would create a new program entitled Tenant Star that would recognize and certify tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficient in their spaces.

**FY15 Appropriations**

The Commerce Justice Science (CJS) Subcommittee marked up its bill at the end of April, and the Transportation-HUD Subcommittee will mark up its bill this week.

*House FY15 CJS Highlight:*

The bill totals \$51.2 billion for FY15; this is about \$398 million less than provided for CJS in the FY14 omnibus appropriations bill that passed in January.

DOJ would receive \$27.8 billion; this is \$383 million more than FY14. The department's grant programs would receive \$2.1 billion, \$73 million less than current funding.

**GRANTS:** The bill includes a total of \$2.1 billion for various state and local grant programs, a reduction of \$73 million below the FY14 enacted level. Within this amount, funds are targeted to the highest-priority national programs:

- \$425.5 million for Violence Against Women programs (which is \$3 million above the President's request) and slightly above FY14 levels;
- \$376 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (same as FY14);
- \$210 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (which the President proposed to eliminate and a slight increase over FY14 level of \$180 million);
- \$45.4 million for Victims of Trafficking grants (a significant increase over the FY14 level of \$14.25 million).
- \$117 million for Debbie Smith Act grants (same as FY14);
- \$36 million for a new grant program focused on eliminating sexual assault kit backlog at law enforcement agencies;
- \$62.5 million for the Second Chance Act program (a slight decrease from the FY14 level of \$67.7 million)
- \$70 million for COPS Hiring Grants -- this is a significant decrease from the FY14 level of \$180 million.

### **Surface Transportation Reauthorization**

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee could release the text of their draft surface transportation bill this week. EPW Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) plans to mark up the legislation later this month.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will testify at a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on the surface transportation reauthorization process.

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday on new routes for funding a surface transportation bill.

Last week, the Obama administration released its legislative proposal, a four-year, \$302 billion bill called the GROW AMERICA Act. The proposed legislation would fund surface transportation spending at an annual rate of \$75.6 billion for FY15 – FY18, which is approximately a \$20 billion increase over current funding levels. The administration proposes to pay for the legislation through \$150 billion in one-time revenue from corporate tax reform and from what the Highway Trust Fund takes in from taxes at current levels.

The GROW AMERICA Act would rename the Highway Trust Fund the Transportation Trust Fund. The Fund would include separate highway, transit, rail and multimodal accounts. The existing gas tax revenues would continue to flow exclusively to the highway and transit accounts, supplemented by new revenue generated through corporate tax reform. The remainder of the new revenue to be generated from tax reform would be used to fund the new rail and multimodal accounts. The new accounts would not receive any existing gas tax revenue.

### **HHS Nomination Hearing**

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will have a hearing on Thursday on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be Health and Human Services Secretary.

### **Unemployment Insurance**

Senator Dean Heller is pushing House Speaker John Boehner and House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions to pass legislation to extend unemployment benefits. Although Speaker Boehner appears unwilling to vote on any unemployment insurance extension, Senator Heller said last week that Congressman Sessions is working on a bill that would extend unemployment benefits and include business-friendly tax provisions. It is unlikely that the legislation will gain traction in the House.

**Purpose:**

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

**II. State Legislative Update****New Speaker**

The new Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins will be sworn in on May 12, 2014 at 1:00 pm followed by a reception.

**Revenues**

April tax revenues are expected to reach about \$435 million above projections. The budget forecast assumed April tax revenues would generate \$10.989 billion and April receipts have now reached \$11.217 billion. In addition, corporate tax receipts are running above expectations by about \$575 million. Sales tax numbers for April will not be available for a few more days. Through the end of March, all revenues (income, sales and corporate taxes) exceeded projections by \$1.3 billion. Including the income tax growth from April and higher April corporate tax receipts, the surplus approaches \$2 billion.

**CalEnviroScreen 2.0**

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has released the Draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Toll, version 2.0, known as CalEnviroScreen 2.0. This report identifies areas of the state with the greatest health impacts caused by environmental factors, such as air pollution, water quality and unemployment. The report will likely be used to determine where to invest cap & trade auction revenue to benefit disadvantaged communities.

The initial report based the screening criteria on ZIP codes, while the updated report provides greater detail by conducting the screening based on census tracts. The latest report also includes in the screening factors the potential burdens caused by contaminants in drinking water and the impacts relating to unemployment.

**Sustainable Freight**

In January the Air Board adopted a resolution directing staff to develop a Sustainable Freight Strategy by the end of the year. The purpose is to identify actions to move California toward the use of zero or near zero emission technology for freight movement. This effort will be coordinated with the work of the California Freight Advisory Committee, which was formed by the Transportation Agency last year.

CARB held a public forum in Sacramento today to begin the discussion on the developing goals and investment priorities. This forum will be followed by workshops later this year with the goal of presenting a Strategy to the Board for adoption in December. The Sustainable Freight Strategy will help direct investments of cap & trade and other funding sources to projects that not only benefit the movement of goods, but also reduce the air quality burden on neighborhoods near ports and other major freight routes.

**Alameda County Bill Priorities**

AB 2396 – Bonta – Convictions: Expungement – AB 2396 passed the Assembly Business, Professions & Consumer Protections Committee on April 29, 2014. The measure would prohibit boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs from denying a professional license to someone based solely on a conviction that has been dismissed. AB 2396 will be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 7, 2014.

SB 1005 - Healthcare for All Residents Regardless of Immigration Status – The Senate Committee on Health approved SB 1005 (Lara) on April 30, 2014. The measure would allow individuals who qualify for Medi-Cal but for their immigration status to enroll in the program. The measure would also allow approximately 2 million undocumented immigrants to enroll in Covered California.

AB 1893 – Stone – Solid Waste – AB 1893 passed the Assembly Health Committee on April 29, 2014. The bill would require sharps sold to the general public in California to be sold with a sharps container labeled with the words “sharps waste or with the international biohazard symbol and the word “BIOHAZARD”. The sharps waste container would be required to include all of the following information on a label affixed to the container or on a separate insert included in the sharps packaging.

### **Alameda County Budget Priorities**

The Senate and the Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Health and Human Services have refrained from acting on much of their agendas pending the May Revision. Most of the items that Alameda County has taken a position on have been heard in committee but not acted upon:

- 1) CalFresh Match Waiver phase out - allows counties to draw a portion of the State General Fund and federal fund CalFresh Administration allocation without match of county funds provided the county meets required maintenance of effort in the CalFresh program. The Administration has proposed to discontinue the program.
- 2) A \$1.25 million augmentation to the Adult Protective Services Program to support the training of social workers.
- 3) A \$20.3 million allocation of funds to county social services agencies to support the training of social work staff in working with victims of commercial sexual exploitation. This item has not yet been heard in the Senate Budget Subcommittee.
- 4) A 47.75 million budget augmentation to help in the retention and recruitment of foster families.

#### **Purpose:**

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

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

SB 1352 (Hancock) Alameda Health System

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

#### **Purpose:**

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- Other:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

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