

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

**Monday, June 9, 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

I. Federal Legislative Update

The House and Senate are both in session this week. The House will take up its FY15 THUD and Agriculture-FDA appropriations bills. The Senate could take up legislation that would allow student-loan borrowers to refinance down to today's rates. In addition, both chambers could take up legislation to address the recent scandal in the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system.

FY15 Appropriations

House

The full House will consider its FY15 THUD and Agriculture-FDA appropriations bills. The House will debate the THUD bill under an open rule, which allows any member to offer any amendment to the bill; consequently we anticipate a number of amendments to be offered. The House Rules Committee will meet tomorrow to determine the rules for the FY15 Agriculture FDA bill.

At the committee level, the House will mark up its draft FY15 Defense Appropriations bill in addition to its FY15 Homeland Security bill. Furthermore, the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee will mark up its bill tomorrow.

Senate

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee will mark up its FY15 bill tomorrow; the full Committee will vote on that bill as well as the Legislative Branch bill on Thursday.

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up both its FY15 THUD and FY15 CJS bills:

House - Senate FY15 THUD Comparison

Transportation

The bill provides \$54.4 billion in discretionary spending for FY15. This is \$2.4 billion above the House level and \$3.6 billion below the FY14 level. \$16.257 billion is provided for the six, main budget accounts: FAA operations, FAA procurements, New Starts, Amtrak capital and debt service subsidies, TIGER, and Amtrak operation subsidies. This is \$926 million above FY15 House funding levels (\$15.331 billion) and \$73 million above current funding levels.

HUD

The Senate includes \$36 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is \$4.3 billion below the FY15 House level and \$5.1 billion below the FY14 enacted level. The bill also includes offsetting receipts estimated by CBO at \$9.8 billion, which allows for program funding levels totaling \$45.8 billion.

House – Senate FY15 CJS Comparison

The Commerce Justice Science bill provides \$51.2 billion for FY15, this is the same as the House proposal and approximately \$398 million less than provided for CJS in the FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act that passed in January.

DOJ would receive \$28 billion, this is about \$200 million above the FY15 House proposal and \$260 million more than the FY14 enacted level. The department's state and local grant programs would receive \$2.3 billion, which is \$200 million above the House proposal and \$11 million below the current funding level. Some of the funding highlights include:

- \$430 million for Violence Against Women Act programs; this is \$4.5 million above House proposal and almost \$5 million above FY14 levels.
- \$376 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants; this is the same as the House and FY14 funding levels.
- \$41 million for a new community-based sexual assault response reform initiative to address the 400,000 sexual assault kits backlog. The program will provide a thorough approach that includes kit testing, investigation and prosecution of sexual assault crimes, training for law enforcement offices, and victim services. The goal of the program is not only to test backlogged kits, but also develop approaches that improve the law enforcement response to sexual assault and services to victims.
 - The House bill provided \$36 million for a new grant program focused on eliminating sexual assault kit backlog at law enforcement agencies.
- \$181 for COPS Hiring Grants; this is \$1 million above the House level and FY14 enacted level.
- \$150 million for SCAAP; this is \$60 million below the proposed level in the House and \$30 million below the current fiscal year level.

Surface Transportation Update

House Republican leadership is still intent on voting on a bill to reauthorize MAP-21 for approximately 8 months, and to fund the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) by using money from a postal reform bill that would abolish Saturday mail delivery. House GOP leadership said as recently as last Thursday that they hope to have a vote on the legislation by the end of June (most likely the week of June 16th).

Senate Finance Committee members held a closed-door meeting last week to discuss possible funding offsets for the upcoming HTF bailout and surface transportation authorization bill. A variety of transportation-related pay-fors were discussed (but no consensus was reached), and some of the ideas discussed appear to have been for the sake of argument only, such as a gasoline and diesel fuel tax increase.

Senate Confirms Burwell to Lead HHS

On June 5, the Senate voted 78-17 to confirm Sylvia Mathews Burwell as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

OMB Nomination Hearing

The Senate Budget Committee and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee will have confirmation hearings for Shaun Donovan, President Obama's pick to be the next director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Purpose:

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

II. State Legislative Update

The Budget Conference Committee met several times last week but did not meet over the weekend or today. They are on call tomorrow, and are expected to finish their work by Friday, June 13, 2014 and pass a budget by the end of Monday, June 16, 2014.

The Committee has continued to leave most items open to be negotiated in private. Members did send the message last week that they are not willing to submit to the Governor's proposals or assumptions immediately as they adopted the LAO's revenue assumptions which are \$2.5 billion higher than the Governor's Administration. The LAO's assumption pertaining to Medi-Cal costs is \$342 million lower than the Administration's assumptions. Members expressed support for restorations of Medi-Cal rates, optional benefits, public health programs and early childhood development programs but did not act on those items.

Despite strong objections from the Administration's representative, Keely Bosler, the Committee rejected several of the Governor's public safety proposals including his split sentencing proposal which would have included time in county jail and on mandatory supervision for people convicted of a felony who will be serving their sentence in state prison. The proposal would have allowed courts to order that the full sentence be served in county jail at their discretion.'

The Committee also rejected the Administration's proposal to allow county-to-county transfer of inmates and revised his proposal to allow county sheriffs to develop alternative custody programs for women in county jails. The revision expands the proposal to include both women and men.

Purpose:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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