

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

Monday, March 19, 2007
1:30 pm

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Scott Haggerty

Location: Board Conference Room-5th floor-County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Supervisor Keith Carson called the meeting to order.

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION (Jim Copeland/Emily Bacque)

Legislative Update

FY07 War Supplemental

The House Appropriations Committee approved a \$124 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill last Thursday. The President's request totaled \$103 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Appropriations Committee added approximately \$20 billion to the President's request.

Democrats have included funds for non-military spending, including for Katrina-related spending and for agricultural disasters. Some of the specifics are as follows:

- \$750 million the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)
- \$3.7 billion for agriculture disaster relief
- \$2.9 billion for Gulf Coast hurricane recovery efforts
- \$2.5 billion for homeland security

The focus of the supplemental debate has centered on the war in Iraq. The bill includes language that would set a deadline for troop withdrawals. It is unclear if there are enough votes for floor passage because the Democratic caucus is divided and Republicans will likely oppose the bill.

The committee approved the bill by a vote of 36-28. Congresswoman Barbara, a founder of the Out of Iraq Caucus, was the only Democrat to vote against the bill, and instead called for a fully funded withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. All Republicans present voted against the bill.

The full House will take up the legislation this week. The Senate Appropriations Committee will take up the supplemental on March 22, 2007. Last week the Senate rejected a resolution that would have begun scaling back the Iraq mission within four months of adoption and would have set a goal for a 2008 withdrawal.

Administration officials have stated that President Bush will veto the bill if it contains troop withdrawal language.

FY08 Budget

The Senate will begin debating its FY08 budget resolution tomorrow. Final passage is expected on Friday. The Senate budget resolution provides \$16 billion more in discretionary spending than requested by the Administration. The Democratic plan would balance the budget in five years and would restore pay-as-you-go budget rules, requiring offsets to extend President Bush's tax cuts or expand mandatory spending.

The House Budget Committee plans to mark up its budget resolution this week. House floor action would occur the following week. The House budget resolution should be similar to the Senate version in that it would balance the budget in five years and require pay go rules as well.

II. STATE LEGISLATION (Lynn Suter/Steve Wallauch)

Legislative Update

State Budget

The State Department of Finance has reported that revenues have increased slightly. The revenues total \$51 million above the Department's earlier predictions. Budget Subcommittees continue to meet, but are not taking any specific action on items, until after release of the May Revise. State advocates continue to send budget letters on items affecting the County so they will be on record when staff drafts an immediate response to the May Revise report.

Education Study

A comprehensive set of studies on education commissioned by the legislature was released last week. The twenty-three (23) reports (1700 pages) are intended as a guide for legislators in revamping the public schools system.

February Ballot

The Governor signed SB 113, which provides for a statewide February ballot for the Presidential Primary. The February 2008 election could also feature a package of other bills: political reforms sought by the Governor, changes to redistricting, changes to term limits.

Local Child Support Agency Funding

The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health, Human Services, Labor & Veteran's Affairs met on Thursday and discussed Local Child Support Funding among other issues. Several county child support directors testified about the hardships local agencies have faced due to their lack of funding increases. A return to a 13.6% incentive payment, COLA and a permanent \$12 million competitive grant were among proposals.

Elimination of the Homeless Mentally Ill Program

Alameda County does not have the AB 2034 program (services and housing for the homeless), however, elimination of funding for the program in surrounding counties could have some affect on the County. The City of Berkeley is interested in this, as approximately 20 witnesses from Berkeley, attended the Senate Subcommittee on Health, Human Services, Labor, & Veteran's Affairs last week to oppose the elimination of the Integrated Services for Homeless Mentally Ill Program. The committee placed the restoration of this program onto a list for potential funding after the May Revise. The Assembly will discuss the program in April.

Transportations Bonds

There have been several discussions on the transportation bonds, more details will follow as the hearings continue.

Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

- i. **AB 57 (Soto)Highways: Safe Routes to School construction program**
Recommendation: Support: Health Care Services Agency
- ii. **AB 90 (Lieu) Pupil nutrition: trans fat**
Recommendation: Support: Health Care Services Agency
- iii. **AB 437 (Jones) Local health officers**
Recommendation: Support: Health Care Services Agency
- iv. **AB 1472 (Leno) Public Health: California Health Places Act of 2008**
Recommendation: Support: Health Care Services Agency

Speaker

Paul Keener, Senior Transportation Planner, Public Works Agency: The Public Works Agency, went on record to join in the support of AB 57.

Recommendation: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas and summary action minutes are available via Internet at: <http://www.acgov.org/>