

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

**Monday, April 16, 2007  
1:30 pm**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair  
Supervisor Scott Haggerty**

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

**SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**

**I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION (Jim Copeland/Emily Bacque)**

**Legislative Update**

The House returns tomorrow from its spring recess. The Senate was back in session last week.

**Stem Cell Legislation**

The Senate took up and passed legislation to overturn the current ban on federal funding for research on new embryonic stem cell lines. The measure passed by a vote of 63 to 34, with three supportive Senators not voting. The current count leaves the bill's supporters one vote short of the 67 needed to override a promised Presidential veto.

The House passed its version of the bill in January. The measure is similar to the bill vetoed last July by President Bush.

**FY07 War Supplemental**

The House and Senate are continuing informal conference negotiations and a formal conference meeting could occur as early as tomorrow or Wednesday. The Administration continues to state that President Bush will veto the supplemental appropriations bill if it contains troop withdrawal language. In addition, Republicans and the Administration have voiced concern over the \$19 billion in non-defense spending. Democrats lack the votes to override a veto. The Congressional Leadership is meeting with the President on Wednesday to discuss their differences.

**Schedule**

The Senate will take up legislation to allow the Medicare program to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. It is unclear if Democrats have enough votes to overcome a filibuster. The House passed similar legislation in January.

The Senate is also planning to take up long-stalled legislation reauthorizing the nation's intelligence programs.

The House is expected to take up the Water Resources Development Act reauthorization. The bill (H.R. 1495) would authorize nearly 600 Army Corps of Engineers projects. The current legislation is very similar to the version the House passed in July 2005. Water Resources Subcommittee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson said she intends to introduce another water resources bill later in the 110th Congress that could include new project requests.

## **II. STATE LEGISLATION (Lynn Suter/Steve Wallauch)**

### **Legislative Update**

Legislators returned last Monday from Spring Recess and began committee and budget hearings. Several new bills are being amended in these meetings and hearings.

### **Governor's Health Care Plan**

The Governor is exploring an idea to fine individuals until their health plan premiums are paid, by garnishing wages. Speaker Nuñez amended his version of health care reform (AB 8), along the lines of the proposal he outlined in February.

In the Senate, SB 48 (Perata) is set for hearing on April 25<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Health Committee. SB 840 (Kuehl) will be heard in Senate Health Committee on April 18, 2007. The Governor continues to meet with his staff and invited guests weekly to discuss various proposals.

### **County Bills**

#### **Prison Overcrowding Update/SB 110**

This bill would create a 16-member commission empowered to analyze the entire structure of California's sentencing system, and be able to either lower or enhance the length of existing prison terms.

The California DAs Association, California Police Chief's Associations, Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and other agencies oppose the bill.

Representatives from California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Urban Counties Caucus (UCC) met with the governor's legislative secretary to discuss corrections reform. The meeting took place as a result county departments and agencies aside from the sheriff were not included in previous discussions.

#### **SB 119 (Cedillo) Medi-Cal: minors: drug and alcohol treatment (Support)**

This Alameda County-supported bill would require that residential drug and alcohol treatment services and other specified services described in the Youth Treatment Guidelines issued by the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs for persons 12 to 21 years of age be a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program. The bill was sent to the Senate Appropriations Suspense File today on April 16, 2007.

#### **SB 137 (Torlakson) California Children's Services (Info item)**

This bill raises the current family income eligibility ceiling from an adjusted gross income of \$40,000 to an adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or 300 % of the federal poverty level for the California Children's Services (CCS) program. Cost estimates to the counties for this change from San Diego County are \$7.3 million and from San Bernardino County are over \$3 million. Cost estimates from Alameda County are expected this week.

CHEAC and CSAC have taken an Oppose Unless Amended position. The bill is in Senate Appropriations this afternoon, but is expected to be placed on the Suspense file.

### **Update on County bills**

#### **AB 499 (Swanson) Sexually Exploited Minors (Support in Concept)**

Assemblyman Swanson convened a meeting Thursday this bill. State advocates attended by teleconference. The bill will be heard on April 24<sup>th</sup> before the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

### **AB 501 (Swanson) Pharmaceutical devices (Sponsor)**

This bill has been set for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30. This bill would require a pharmaceutical company whose product is dispensed through a pre-filled injection devices provide each user of the product a sharps box and mail back container to dispose of used sharps.

State advocates and Amy DeReyes, District 5 met with lobbyists from the pharmaceutical industry, who will offer alternative language; the Alameda County Sharps Coalition is also working on alternative language.

### **AB 503 and AB 1496 (Swanson) – Informational**

These bills would place restrictions on contracting out that could affect counties that hire seasonal workers, need part time overtime workers because of unexpected developments, or for county hospitals.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is taking an oppose positions on these two bills, and have asked for input from Alameda County.

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

#### **i. AB 466 (Hancock) Pupils: average daily attendance**

*Recommendation: Support: Lynn M. Suter, County Lobbyist*

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

### **III. Proposed implementation of fines and fees for children’s library materials (Library)**

Jean Hofacket, County Librarian, presented a proposal to implement fines and fees for overdue children’s library materials.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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