

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

Monday, April 30, 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

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION (Jim Copeland/Emily Bacque)

FY07 War Supplemental

The House and Senate passed the final version of the \$124 billion supplemental appropriations bill last week. President Bush is expected to veto the legislation because of the troop withdrawal language included in the bill. The House will likely schedule a veto over-ride this week. Neither the House nor the Senate has the two-thirds votes necessary to over-ride the veto. Both the House and Senate leadership will begin focus on a shorter term supplemental appropriations bill in the range of \$40-\$50 billion that could fund the war for the next three months.

FY08 Budget and Appropriations

The House and Senate adopted their respective budgets in late March, but neither has appointed conferees. Democratic leaders would like to appoint conferees by the end of this week, with the aim of adopting a completed budget next week.

If a final budget deal is not reached before House leaders begin taking up appropriations bills (which is expected in mid-May), the leadership will “deem” a discretionary spending cap for the House to facilitate floor consideration of spending bills.

The first of the FY08 appropriations subcommittee mark ups could occur as early as this week, although none have been scheduled. Full Committee mark ups would be the following week, with floor time beginning the week of May 14. The House leadership is planning to have all appropriations bills off the floor by the July 4th Recess. The Senate would not begin its committee mark ups until late May or early June.

Schedule

The House will take up legislation to reauthorize the Head Start program for the first time in a decade. The legislation would increase authorized funding levels to \$7.4 billion for fiscal 2008 and “such sums as necessary” through fiscal 2012.

The Senate will consider legislation that would overhaul drug-safety procedures at the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).

Also, the Senate leadership has set aside the last two weeks in May for debate of an immigration overhaul bill. However, no legislation has been introduced and the main players (including Kennedy and McCain) are still trying to reach a deal on the proposed legislation.

Questions/Discussion

Supervisor Keith Carson: To date what is the total to date of the spending on the war in Iraq?

Jim Copeland: It could possible be \$1 trillion. Jim Copeland will try to tally up the emergency supplemental spending bills and get the total amount.

Supervisor Keith Carson: Is there anything happening with oversight of the spending to date, in light of recent reports that the infrastructure funds that were allocated for rebuilding in Iraq, the infrastructure is either non-existent or not working.

Jim Copeland: There has been general oversight on the part of the Armed Services Committee. Jim will try to pull together a summary.

II. STATE LEGISLATION (Lynn Suter/Steve Wallauch)

Legislative Update

Senators are in Washington, D.C. this week lobbying on flood, water, greenhouse gases, homeland and port security, No Child Left Behind, REAL ID Act, State of Children's Health Insurance Program (Healthy Families) and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

Assembly hearings were canceled today to allow legislators to attend the memorial services in Los Angeles, for Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

Deadlines

Friday, April 27, 2007 was the first major deadline for policy committees to hear and refer all fiscal bills to the appropriations committee. The remaining non-fiscal bills approved and moved to the floor of each House by May 11, 2007. The next major deadline for bills is the house of origin deadline on June 8, 2007. Since this is the first year of the two-year session, few bills actually die. Most become two year bills that will be considered in amended versions early next year.

We sent an outline of the Prison Reform bill which passed the Legislation last week to all of you. If you did not receive it, please let us know. First of all – everybody voted under the duress of court deadline and politics. Most members of both houses had no clue what they were even voting on or more than a bare outline of what the package contains. Leadership and Administration staff have been working together on this for months and leaders presented both Houses with a “done deal” that was aired in no legislative hearings. That having been said, if the bill had been out there for 5 minutes, it would have taken months of bickering to pass. Strategically, this was masterful stroke for leadership.

Issues to consider:

AB 900 doesn't deal with parole, sentencing reform or early release programs.

Substance abuse, mental health and vocational training are dealt with only obliquely.

The package according to some who worked on it, is unworkable. CDCR Management is probably not capable of carrying out the package until serious management reform occurs.

Nobody really knows how the proposed revenue bonds will work, the Department of Finance only has very general estimates of possible cost to state general fund. Financials have not been analyzed and actual needs have not been vetted.

Amendments to this package will most likely occur as a result of court arguments and court decision in June. The County should move forward with plans to deal with what could become an emergency situation.

New Director of Social Services: The Governor appointed John Wagner as the new Director of Social Services last Tuesday. Wagner has been working in Social Services in Massachusetts for the last 15 years.

Several Senators are in Washington, D.C. to lobby for more money for programs they support. Several people are out attending funeral services for Juanita McDonald, who represented California's 37th congressional district, she passed away on April 22, 2007.

Lynn Suter and Associates sent PAL Committee an overview of AB 900 – Prison Reform bill.

In terms of healthcare, the Governor has finished phase 1 of his weekly meetings. He will begin phase 2 in mid May.

AB 499 – Sexually exploited minors bill was heard in the Public Safety Committee; it will likely be heard in the Public Safety Committee again.

AB 501 – Sharp’s bill will be heard in Committee on Tuesday, May 8

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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