

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

Monday, October 25, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: County Administration Building Room 255
1221 Oak Street, 2nd floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Schedule

The House and Senate are in session this week and are scheduled to hold votes. The House is scheduled to vote H.R. 2119 – the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act (FVPSA) of 2021 and H.R. 3992 – the Protect Older Job Applicants (POJA) Act. The second half of the week is very fluid and new items could be added, including a vote on the Senate’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Senate will take up several of the President’s nominations this week.

Reconciliation/Infrastructure

Congressional Democrats and the White House are racing to reach agreement on a scaled-back version of the President’s economic agenda, with a self-imposed deadline prior to his departure later this week for summits in Europe. President Biden and Senator Joe Manchin met Sunday morning to discuss further what Mr. Manchin would support in the reconciliation package. He stated to the press today that reaching a framework to execute the bulk of President Joe Biden's domestic agenda “should be” feasible this week but that he has concerns with efforts to expand Medicare benefits to vision, dental and hearing, as well as a push to close the Medicaid coverage gap and expand paid leave. He also reiterated that he wanted to keep the overall price tag at \$1.5 trillion, a number he communicated to Leader Schumer in July.

Meanwhile, Democratic leaders are pushing for a \$2 trillion package, down from the \$3.5 trillion passed by House committees last month. A further reduction to \$1.5 trillion will require lawmakers to shrink their plans to expand the social safety net. Senator Sinema provided the White House with her proposed options to pay for reconciliation, including a corporate minimum tax and a wealth tax targeting the wealthy. This was after she stated she opposed increasing taxes on wealthy individuals and increasing the domestic corporate tax rate.

While a formal framework has not yet been released, there are indications that the following provisions could be part of the new proposal.

- A one-year extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit
- Two years of free community college removed from the proposal
- Smaller expansion of hearing, dental and vision Medicare benefits, including a \$800 voucher for Dental benefits through Medicare, rather than a full guaranteed benefit.
- Three-four year extension of expanded ACA subsidies
- Three-year extension of Medicaid subsidies for people in the 12 remaining non-expansion states.
- \$175 billion in affordable housing, down from \$300 billion in housing aid
- \$190 billion or less to boost home care for services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

- Smaller drug pricing negotiation authority to Medicare
 - Smaller paid family and medical leave proposal, potentially four-weeks of paid leave for lower-income workers.
 - Yearly tax on the unrealized gains those worth more than \$1 billion or earn more than \$100 million for three consecutive years (a wealth tax), a corporate minimum tax, and increased reporting to the IRS from banks and credit unions to catch more tax avoidance.
 - The Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP), favored by many Democrats, is out of the package.
- Lawmakers are seeking to bolster clean energy tax credits and grants to clean energy resources

House leaders may hold a vote Wednesday on the bipartisan infrastructure bill before the Oct. 31st expiration of federal surface transportation funding. This is contingent on if a deal can be reached with Senators Manchin and Sinema on a new reconciliation framework in the next 48 hours. Without an agreed-upon outline on reconciliation, House progressives will likely oppose the IJA. If a new framework is not reached the vote on the bipartisan infrastructure bill will likely be postponed and Congress will instead vote on another short-term extension of the FAST Act.

ARP Flexibility Legislation

Last week, the Senate passed S. 3011, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act introduced by Senator Padilla. The bill would allow eligible governments to allocate up to \$10 million in ARPA Recovery Funds for the provision of government services without being required to calculate revenue loss. It would also allow \$10 million (or 30 percent) of a county’s ARPA Recovery Fund allocation to be used for infrastructure-related activities authorized under existing federal surface transportation laws or a Community Development Block Grant project. The bill would allow ARPA Recovery Funds to provide emergency relief from natural disasters and their negative economic impacts, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal Update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation position – Action Item

i. [H.R. 1978/ S. 912](#) (Kuster/Hirono) Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act of 2021

*Recommendation: **Support:** Wilma Chan, Board of Supervisors, District 3*

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

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

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

While the Legislature continues their fall recess, the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittee 4 on State Administration held an informational hearing today to provide an update on reform at the Employment Development Department.

Additionally, on Thursday the Assembly Elections and Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee will be meeting for an informational hearing titled “Evaluating California’s Recall Process.” Governor Gavin Newsom has acted on all legislation passed by the Legislature in 2021.

Alameda County Sponsored Bills

- AB 368 (Bonta) Food prescriptions. - Status: Held in Committee
- AB 1294 (Quirk) Child Care Pilot. - Status: Signed by the Governor
- Alameda's Child Care Pilot extension was included in budget bill AB 131, signed by the Governor
- AB 924 (Wicks) Alameda Health System: hospital authority. - Status: Has been turned into a 2-year bill at the request of the County and will not be pursued next year.

LAO 2021-22 "Big Three" Revenue Outlook Update: October 2021

In a report published by the Legislative Analyst's Office, the collection of personal income, sales, and corporation taxes will exceed the budget act assumption of \$170 billion in 2021-22 by at least "several billion dollars." The LAO currently estimates an unanticipated revenue of somewhere between \$8 billion and \$30 billion dollars.

DHCS Stakeholder Advisory Committee

On October 21st, the Department of Health Care Services held their Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting included updates and implementation timelines for CalAIM and new DHCS initiatives, Medi-Cal managed care county plans, update on 1115 and 1915b waivers and COVID-19 incentive and vaccine updates.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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