

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

**Monday, December 14, 2020
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 – CJ Lake

Congressional Schedule

The Senate is in Washington and is scheduled to hold votes today through the remainder of the week. The House has announced they will plan to hold votes beginning Wednesday of this week, with an expectation that all work will be completed by Friday, December 18, 2020.

Appropriations

Last week Congress passed a week-long Continuing Resolution to fund the government until Friday, December 18. Conversations are trending in a positive direction, though it is still unclear whether Congress will wrap up their slate of 12 spending bills. If an agreement cannot be reached, it is likely that they will pass a CR to fund the government into March.

COVID-19 Relief Talks

The text of the bipartisan COVID-19 relief proposal is slated to be released this afternoon. There are still major disagreements, primarily on the state and local funding piece and liability protections. The bipartisan proposal includes a temporary stay on lawsuits, but it is unknown if that is enough for Leader McConnell. The proposal will be two separate pieces of legislation, one containing everything that has been agreed upon at this point and another containing only state and local relief and liability protections.

More details related to the state and local assistance & liability piece are as follows: the liability shield would protect businesses for less time than the proposal backed by Leader McConnell. Instead of four years of protection, the time frame would be one year after enactment and plaintiffs would be allowed to file lawsuits in state courts. In exchange, the proposal grants a key concession to Republicans by establishing a gross negligence standard for liability, which could allow employers who make good faith efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 from paying damages.

The \$160 billion in state and local aid would be distributed using needs-based criteria. The compromise allocates one-third of \$152 billion to states and localities based on population and the other two-thirds based on revenue losses. Each state would get a minimum of \$500 million.

An additional \$8 billion goes to tribal governments. The proposal also states that State governments must distribute 40 percent of the state's funding to local government but may choose how funds are allocated: by proportional population, by proportional revenue loss, or by a combination of those two factors.

Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi still have not spoken directly about a deal. The administration announced a \$916 billion proposal last week that Leader McConnell indicated his support for, but Speaker Pelosi still sees the \$908 billion bipartisan proposal as the best path forward.

DACA Program Restored by Federal Court Ruling

On December 4, 2020, a U.S. district court in the Eastern District of New York ordered that the July 2020 memorandum issued by Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, the provisions of which severely curtailed DACA and barred initial applications for DACA, is vacated. As a result, on December 7, 2020, the government published a notice on its website that, effective immediately, the government is accepting initial DACA applications, DACA renewal requests, and applications for advance parole from DACA recipients. Any DACA and employment authorization documents (EADs) issued for one year instead of two years because of the Wolf memo are extended to two years and the government will take steps to provide evidence of this extension.

Biden Transition Announcements

The Biden administration continues to release their choices for various government positions. Last week several announcements were made including:

- Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Susan Rice, Director of the White House's Domestic Policy Council
- Xavier Becerra, for Secretary of HHS
- Dr. Rochelle Walensky to run the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Representative Marcia Fudge to run HUD
- Tom Vilsack to return as USDA Secretary
- Retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense
- Katherine Tai to serve as U.S. Trade Representative

Important dates:

- December 8: "Safe Harbor" deadline for a state to document how it concluded a contested vote and the date by which all state-level election challenges to be completed.
- Monday, December 14: Electoral College delegates meet in the states and vote.
- January 3 or 4: 117th Congress officially convenes.
- January 5: Georgia Senate runoff elections to determine Senate majority.
- January 6: Joint Session of Congress to count electoral votes and declare official results.
- January 20: Presidential inauguration

Purpose:

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

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Capitol Update

The Legislature is set to reconvene on Monday January 4, 2021. Legislators will have until February 19th to introduce bills. Additionally, two informational hearings have been scheduled for the Select Committee on Police Reform.

The administration is now focused on vaccine distribution as the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer was delivered to California Sunday night. The Governor visited an LA County hospital today, where some of the first doses were administered to health care workers.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The Select Committee on Police Reform has scheduled the first of a two-part informational hearing on the subject “Setting Better Standards for Police: More Professional, More Safety? Part 1.”

Friday, December 18, 2020

The second part of the Select Committee on Police Reform informational hearing is scheduled for Friday. The hearing is titled “Discipline for Misconduct: Why is it so hard to hold police accountable? Part 2.”

Key Dates & Deadlines

- Statutes take effect – January 1, 2021
- Legislature Reconvenes – January 4, 2021
- Budget must be submitted by Governor – January 10, 2021
- Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel – January 22, 2021
- Last day for bills to be introduced – February 19, 2020

CalOSHA Stakeholder Meeting re: COVID-19 Temporary Standards

CalOSHA has scheduled a stakeholder meeting on their temporary COVID standards for this Friday, December 18 from noon-5pm. The agenda for the meeting, including Zoom information is attached. OSHA is seeking feedback on the regulations.

Senate Leader Atkins Announces Committee Assignments

Senate Leader Toni Atkins announced today the Senate’s committee membership assignments for the 2021-22 Legislative session. See [HERE](#) for the full list of committees and its membership but would highlight that Senator Skinner (D- Berkeley) has been selected as the new chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Speaker Rendon Announces Committee Assignments

On Saturday, Speaker Rendon issued the attached memo outlining the chairs, vice chairs, and membership of each Assembly committee. Some chairs were indeed shuffled, including Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) taking over for Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D- Fairfield) as Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee. Frazier is now the Chair of the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee, with Assemblymember Adam Gray (D-Merced) being removed from that post. Additionally, Assemblymember Luz Rivas (D-Arleta) takes over for Friedman as Chair of Assembly Natural Resources Committee. New Assemblymember Lisa Calderon (D-Whittier) was appointed Chair of Assembly Human Services Committee.

From the Alameda Delegation, Assemblymember Bill Quirk retains his chairmanship of Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee. Assemblymember Buffy Wicks is co-chair of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.

Last, Speaker Rendon created a new standing policy committee: The Assembly Emergency Management Committee. The Committee's jurisdiction will include fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical services, statewide disaster response, and emergency communication. The Chair will be Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D-Pomona).

Western States Scientific Review Workgroup Confirm Safety of Pfizer Vaccine

On Sunday, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup released an eight-page memo confirming the safety of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine after completing a thorough review. In addition to their recommendation of the Pfizer vaccine the workgroup upheld the review process of the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) and the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and concluded “that equity [had] been considered appropriately in the clinical trials.”

Notably, the memo disclosed that three recipients of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine in the United Kingdom are reported to have had anaphylactic reactions. Pfizer BioNTech reported at the FDA VRBPAC meeting on December 10, 2020 that such reactions had not occurred in any of the 18,000 Phase 3 clinical trial participants who received the COVID-19 vaccine. The Scientific Safety Review Workgroup wants to underscore the importance – as with any vaccine – of providing the vaccine in locations that are prepared to treat anaphylactic reactions or any other unexpected reactions, as noted in standard guidance from CDC.

Governor Newsom commented on this announcement saying, “with shipments of the vaccine soon on their way to California, we are working hand-in-hand with local public health officials to get the vaccine out to the first phase of recipients.”

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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