

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

**Monday, May 10, 2021
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

Schedule

The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will vote on a slate of bills under suspension of the rules. Those bills include H.R.1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which would bolster workplace protections for pregnant women requesting accommodations. The bill previously passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support and was endorsed by worker advocacy groups and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Also, H.R. 2547, the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act, which is aimed at overhauling the debt collection industry and strengthening protections for small business lending, safeguarding military service members from debt collection, and helping borrowers with student and medical debt. The House will also consider a slate of mental health measures to strengthen suicide-prevention efforts, authorize grants for school-based mental health services, and address disparities in mental health care among underserved communities.

The Senate will work on nominations and confirmations including the nomination of Nuria Fernandez to serve as Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

Appropriations Schedule Updates

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro said last week that the Appropriations subcommittees and the full committee will mark up all 12 of their annual spending bills by the end of June. The Chair also said that she wants the full House to vote on and pass these bills in July.

Ongoing Infrastructure Negotiations

President Biden has scheduled meetings with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to discuss his \$4 trillion, two-part, Build Back Better proposal. On Wednesday, the President will meet with Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell, as well as Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy. The Administration continues to push for a bipartisan agreement on at least some of the Build Back Better agenda.

On Thursday, President Biden will meet with Republican Senator Shelley Moore-Capito and five other Republican senators about his proposal and their \$568 billion infrastructure counter-offer.

Treasury Guidance on Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Department of the Treasury released guidance, a fact sheet, and an interim final rule for the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund which was established by the American Rescue Plan Act in March of this year. It is expected that the first tranche of funds under the program will go out this week.

CJ Lake and the CAO's office are currently reviewing the interim final rule.

HHS Reinstates Protections for Gay and Transgender Individuals

The Biden administration said today that it will enforce anti-discrimination protections for gay and transgender patients, reversing the Trump administration's narrowing of those protections. The HHS civil rights office will again investigate complaints against health providers, insurers and others for refusing to cover or provide care to transgender patients, such as gender-affirming surgeries or hormone therapies.

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said the administration's approach to the anti-discrimination protections, which stem from a provision in the Affordable Care Act, will allow for "no ambiguity."

To provide some context, the Obama administration sought to enshrine the protections into regulation, asserting that the ACA provision barring sex discrimination in health care applied to gender identity. But Trump administration rules last year eliminated those protections for transgender people by narrowing the definition of "sex." Both the Obama and Trump rules have been wrapped up in litigation and have never fully taken effect.

Ghost Guns

The Justice Department issued a proposed rule Friday on "ghost guns" to require serial numbers to be placed on the weapons, including pre-manufactured kits used to assemble the firearms. Republicans in Congress are blocking action on other Democratic gun-control initiatives including expanded background checks on commercial gun sales or an assault weapons ban, so President Biden has turned to the regulatory route. According to DOJ, from 2016 to 2020, more than 23,000 unserialized firearms were reported to have been recovered by law enforcement from potential crime scenes including in connection with 325 homicides or attempted homicides.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will also hold a hearing tomorrow to discuss ghost gun regulation and other gun violence prevention measures.

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.

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

The Legislature has scheduled Appropriation Committee hearings as well as Budget Subcommittee Hearings throughout the week, those relevant to the County have been noted below. The May Revise is expected to be released this Friday, May 14, 2021. The PS team will keep you and your staff updated as details are made available.

Today, the Governor previewed his \$100 billion California Comeback Plan which includes a \$12 billion tax rebate and a \$5.1 billion immediate drought response package.

Monday, May 10, 2021

The Senate Appropriations Committee met to hear the following legislation:

- o SB 6 (Caballero) Local planning: housing: commercial zones.
 - Position: Priority Watch
 - Outcome: Moved to the Suspense File
- o SB 9 (Atkins) Housing development: approvals.
 - Position: Priority Watch
 - Outcome: Moved to the Suspense File
- o SB 10 (Wiener) Planning and zoning: housing development: density.
 - Position: Priority Watch
 - Outcome: Moved to the Suspense File
- o SB 244 (Archuleta) Lithium-ion batteries: illegal disposal: fire prevention.
 - Position: Support
 - Outcome: Moved to the Suspense File

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

The Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services Committee has scheduled a hearing related to the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services and Department of Social Services.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee will meet to hear the following legislation:

- o AB 4 (Arambula) Medi-Cal: eligibility.
 - Position: Priority Watch
- o AB 32 (Aguiar-Curry) Telehealth.
 - Position: Priority Watch
- o AB 71 (Rivas) Homelessness funding: Bring California Home Act.
 - Position: Priority Watch
- o AB 1294 (Quirk) Childcare: individualized county childcare subsidy plans.
 - Position: Co-Sponsor

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services has scheduled a hearing related to various departments and issues.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration has scheduled a hearing related to various departments and issues.

Thursday, May 13, 2021

The Senate has scheduled a joint hearing with the Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services and Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education to discuss issues related to the Department of Social Services, Child Care, and Department of Health Care Services.

Governor Gavin Newsom

The Governor held two press conferences today, in Oakland and Merced County, in which he previewed his \$100 billion California Comeback Plan.

Today, Governor Newsom announced a \$75.7 billion budget surplus and highlighted his plan for the "largest state tax rebate in American history" to provide immediate direct relief to millions of Californians.

The \$12 billion tax rebate is expected to provide 80% of all California tax filers with a direct payment of \$600 and eligible families with dependents an additional \$500. Additionally, the Governor is proposing \$5.2 billion for rent back pay and future rent payments plus \$2 billion for unpaid utility bills.

Governor Newsom also announced a proposed investment of \$5.1 billion for water infrastructure, drought preparedness and response, and water resilience as part of his California Comeback Plan.

Alameda County Sponsored Bills

- AB 368 (Bonta) Food prescriptions.
 - o Status: Referred to Suspense File
- AB 1294 (Quirk) Child Care Pilot Permanency.
 - o Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – May 12th
- AB 924 (Wicks) Alameda Health System: hospital authority.
 - o Status: Has been turned into a 2-year bill at the request of the County

Key Dates and Deadlines

- May Revise – May 14, 2021
- Special Primary Election for AD-54/Kamlager Seat – May 18, 2021
- Special Election – July 20, 2021
- Appropriations Committee Deadline – May 21, 2021
- Floor Session Only – June 1-June 4, 2021
- House of Origin Deadline – June 4, 2021
- Special Primary Election AD-18/Bonta Seat – June 29, 2021

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.

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