

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

Monday, June 29, 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 House and Senate are in session before they depart on Friday for the July 4th recess. The Senate is scheduled to return on July 20, while the House returns on Monday, July 6.

Appropriations Schedule

House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey said that the House would consider Appropriations bills in Subcommittees on Monday, July 6 through Wednesday, July 8, before they move bills to the full Committee for consideration.

The Senate has postponed all markups, citing concerns that Senate Democrats would offer amendments related to police reform and funding to provide assistance in response to COVID-19.

Police Reform

House Votes on George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

The House passed the Democratic police reform bill, H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020, by a vote of 236-181, with three Republicans, Fred Upton from Michigan, Brian Fitzpatrick from Pennsylvania, and Will Hurd from Texas voting with Democrats. House and Senate Democrats hope that it will open the door to bipartisan negotiations to pass legislation in the Senate (see below).

JUSTICE Act Fails to Proceed in Senate

The Senate motion to proceed on police reform bill S. 3985, the JUSTICE Act, failed 45-55 last week. 60 votes were needed to proceed and Republicans failed to gain enough Democratic support. The vote was mostly party-line, and only three non-Republican Senators joined their Republican colleagues in support of the bill. Senators Manchin, Jones, and the independent King from Maine. Democrats have said that the Republican-led bill does not go far enough to address police brutality and qualified immunity protections. Discussions on a police reform package are ongoing, but they have gotten more and more political over the last week or so.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act – H.R. 1425

The House will vote today on H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, a House Democrats messaging bill. The legislation is largely a repeat of measures already passed by the House, mostly along party lines.

The bill would expand the Affordable Care Act's tax credits, encourage states to expand Medicaid programs with the promise of more federal funds, and cap what any person may pay for coverage premiums at 8.5% of their income.

Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020 – H.R. 7301

H.R. 7301 would authorize about \$194 billion in housing aid, expand moratoriums on foreclosures and evictions, authorize federal loans for rental property owners and mortgage servicers, and offer bankruptcy relief, among other provisions. These provisions were included in the HEROES Act, which passed the House in May. Representative Waters and other members are pushing these measures to reemphasize their importance and keep them on Congress's list of priorities.

Rental Assistance

\$100 billion of the total funds would be used to establish an Emergency Rental Assistance program to help eligible recipients pay for rent, utilities, security deposits, and other related costs, through HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant program for applicants with less than 80% of median income in their area.

Homeless Assistance

\$11.5 billion would also flow through the Emergency Solutions Grant program to aid people experiencing homelessness. Funds could be used to provide infectious disease prevention training, hazard pay for staff, and hotel vouchers for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. An additional \$1 billion would be authorized for Section 8 tenant-based rental assistance emergency vouchers. The bill also provides \$15 million for the HOPWA program.

Homeowner Assistance

The bill would create a \$75 billion Homeowner Assistance Fund in the Treasury Department. Funds would flow to state housing finance agencies, and would be used to prevent homeowner mortgage defaults, foreclosures, and displacements. Funds could be used to reduce mortgage principal amounts, assist homeowners with tax, insurance, and utility payments, and reimburse state and local governments for money spent since January 21, 2020 to prevent housing losses due to the pandemic.

State recipients would have to set aside at least 60% of their allocation to assist homeowners who do not earn more than 80% of the local median income in their area.

Foreclosures and Evictions

The bill would expand CARES act provisions to cover additional residential properties and extend moratorium periods on foreclosures and evictions. It replaces the CARES Act's 120-day moratorium on landlord-tenant evictions with a 12-month period. It would also automatically grant a 60-day forbearance period for paused or reduced mortgage payments for borrowers who are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

On Tuesday, June 23, the Federal Housing Authority announced a second extension of the foreclosure and eviction moratorium through August 31, 2020. It was set to expire on June 30, 2020.

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

COVID-19 continues to be a focus for the Legislature and the Administration as concerns grow about a spike in cases. The Legislature reached an agreement Monday, June 22, 2020 with the Governor on the 2020-21 State Budget. The Governor stressed that more work lies ahead but believes the budget is balanced and protects core services. Both houses took up the budget and associated budget trailer bills last week and sent them to the Governor for his signature. It is expected that more budget trailer bills will be adopted after both houses return from their summer recess on July 13, 2020.

Budget

On Friday, June 26, 2020 the Assembly finished the budget with their actions on all but two of the existing budgets bills and trailer bills.

The Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon released a statement after the Assembly passed the 2020-2021 State Budget today. He stated that the budget that is being sent to the Governor is an important accomplishment. With multiple hardships, including public health crisis and economic challenges, the budget is a plan that preserves the lifelines needed by many Californians, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Hearings and Markups

Tuesday, June 30

House Committee on Financial Services Hearing: “Oversight of the Treasury Department's and Federal Reserve's Pandemic Response.” at 12:30 PM

Wednesday, July 1

House Committee on Small Business Hearing: “The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program: Status Update from the Administration.” at 10:00 AM

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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