I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week however it will be a short workweek. The President will deliver his final State of the Union address before Congress on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, House and Senate Republicans will travel to Baltimore, where they will hold their annual legislative retreat.

Budget Reconciliation: Affordable Care Act Repeal

Last week President Obama vetoed a budget reconciliation bill (HR 3762) that would have repealed major provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The budget reconciliation measure would repeal the law's taxes on:

- "Cadillac" health plans (this repeal was signed into law as part of the FY16 omnibus appropriations bill);
- Medical devices (this repeal was signed into law as part of the FY16 omnibus appropriations bill);
- Over-the-counter medications; and
- Prescription drugs.

The bill also would eliminate:

- The ACA's individual and employer mandates;
- The ACA’s subsidies to help consumers purchase health plans through the exchanges created under the law; and
- Fines that can be levied on U.S. residents and businesses for not purchasing or offering health coverage under the law.

Additionally the bill would phase out the ACA’s Medicaid expansion after a two-year transition period; remove risk-adjustment programs that reimburse insurers and repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

In addition, the measure would strip federal funding from Planned Parenthood for one year and redirect some of that funding to community health centers.

The House will hold a vote to override the veto on January 26, 2016 but Republicans do not have the necessary 2/3 vote to override the veto.

State of the Union Address

President Obama will deliver his last State of the Union address tomorrow night. The President will not offer the typical policy proposals that are the trademark of the annual State of the Union, but instead will deliver profound statement on the direction of the country. According to Obama Administration officials, the President will use the address to reflect on the year ahead and his entire presidency.
President Obama has signaled that he intends to reflect on some of the significant acts of his presidency: the auto industry bailout, health insurance legislation, and policies he credits with a 70-month streak of job creation.

**House Judiciary Action**

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a markup on criminal justice legislation. The Committee will consider the following bills:

H.R. 3406, the “Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2015”

This bill, authored by Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and Representative Danny Davis builds on the success of the original Second Chance Act of 2008. Second Chance Act grants help states and communities address the needs of people returning home from incarceration. Second Chance supports addiction and mental health treatment, mentoring, job training and education, housing, and other critical reentry services. The grants are administered primarily by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2015 would:

- Reauthorize the most successful Second Chance programs, including reentry demonstration grants and mentoring grants, grants for family-based substance use treatment and other SUD services, and grants for education and career preparation;
- Expand opportunities for community-based nonprofits to apply for grant programs for which they are currently ineligible to receive direct funding;
- Specifically identifies medication-assisted treatment as a supported activity for reentry courts funded by the reentry demonstration grants program;
- Require coordination among multiple federal agencies, state and local government, and service providers on federal programs and policies related to reentry;
- Modify the Second Chance careers training grant program to support programs that provide job training for a wider range of occupations;
- Expand the mentoring grants program to support employment services, substance use and mental health treatment, housing, and other transitional services.

H.R. 1854, the “Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015”

This bipartisan, bicameral bill, authored by Congressmen Doug Collins and Bobby Scott, reauthorizes and updates the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2004. The legislation was drafted to improve responses to people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system. The companion bill (S. 993) passed the Senate in December. The legislation would:

- Continue support for mental health courts and crisis intervention teams;
- Expand services to veterans that include treatment court programs, peer-to-peer services, appropriate services to veterans who have been incarcerated, and training programs for criminal justice, law enforcement and corrections personnel to identify and respond to incidents involving veterans with a mental health condition;
- Make grants to provide broader training during police academies and orientation that teach law enforcement personnel how to identify and respond to incidents involving persons with mental health disorders;
- Would create programs that offer federal first responders and tactical units comprehensive training in procedures to identify and respond appropriately to incidents involving mentally ill individuals;
- Increases focus on prison- and jail-based programs;
- Gives local officials greater control over program participation eligibility; and
- Requires annual audits of all grant recipients to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees.
II. State Legislative Update – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

As the Legislature starts their second week back in Sacramento there would typically not be much activity on either floor of the Legislature. However, the Assembly held the official vote to elect the new Speaker, Anthony Rendon. This vote was ceremonial, as the Assembly Democratic Caucus held the vote last year and the vote was unanimous on the Assembly Floor today.

Governor’s Budget

Governor Brown released his proposed 2016-17 budget on Thursday, January 7, 2016. As expected, the Governor stressed the need to remain fiscally prudent in order to maintain fiscal balance. The Governor wrote a letter to the Legislature urging continued budget restraint. Instead of commitments to ongoing expenditures, the Governor proposed one-time expenditures including a commitment to reducing the unfunded retiree healthcare liability, paying down debt and putting $2 billion into the state's Rainy Day Fund.

Legislation

The Legislature is continuing to hold committee hearings this week to hear two-year bills in order to meet Friday's deadline for policy committees to report fiscal bills to the Fiscal Committee. Any 2-year bill must be passed out of the house of origin by Monday, January 31, 2016.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck will continue to monitor bills that are introduced for any impact on Alameda County. The last day to introduce bills is February 19, 2016.

Transportation Funding

Assemblymember Jim Frazier, the Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, introduced AB 1591 last week in the regular session, not the Special Session on Transportation. Assemblymember Frazier's funding plan is expected to raise over $7 billion in funding for transportation. This is in addition to the proposals from the Governor, Senator Jim Beall and proposals from both the Senate and Assembly Republican Caucuses.

Governor's State of the State Address

The Governor announced that he would deliver his State of the State Address on Thursday, January 21st at 10 a.m.

Purpose:

☐ Report progress  ☐ Advocacy or Education  ☐ Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position  ☑ Other: Federal legislative update

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.
Request for Legislation position – Action Item

i. Support for Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) application to Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment (grant) Program

Attachment

Recommendation: Support: Scott Haggerty, District 1, Board of Supervisors

Purpose:
- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Recommendation from Personnel Administration Legislation Committee: Approve. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board of Supervisors’ Committees agendas are available via Internet at: www.acgov.org