

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

Monday, March 14, 2016
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

The House and Senate are both in session this week. House Republicans will meet this evening to try to break an impasse over the FY17 budget resolution and decide how to move forward on appropriations. The Senate plans to consider legislation that would set a nationwide policy for labeling food products. Both chambers will also take up a short-term, three-month extension of the Federal Aviation Administration authorization.

Budget and Appropriations

House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price's continues to work with Committee Republicans to try to sway support for marking up a budget resolution. Various committees will begin moving separate bills that include significant cuts to entitlement programs as part of Speaker Paul Ryan's final push to unify the Republican Conference behind a budget resolution.

Last week, House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady released a three-bill package to cut mandatory spending by \$16 to \$17 billion over two years, and \$98 billion within a decade, by targeting overpayments in government programs, including Affordable Care Act subsidies, child tax credits for immigrants working in the United States illegally, and social services grants.

House Republicans are set to gather tonight as members return from a weeklong district work period. The meeting comes as the House Energy and Commerce Committee begins a markup of H.R. 4725, also designed to help persuade reluctant Republicans to support a budget resolution that preserves the \$1.070 trillion in discretionary spending that Congress approved last year. H.R. 4725, the Common Sense Savings Act, would achieve \$25 billion in deficit reduction over 10 years. In order to achieve the deficit reduction, the legislation would allow more lottery winnings to be counted as income for the purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility and reduce Medicaid reimbursement rates for prisoners. It would also eliminate an increase in the federal matching rate for the State Children's Health Insurance Program within the Affordable Care Act and limit the ability of states to impose taxes aimed solely at increasing Medicaid payments from the federal government.

Budget Chairman Tom Price wants to schedule a markup this week, likely on Wednesday.

Senate Opioid Abuse Legislation

After two weeks of bipartisan debate on the floor, the Senate passed S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), to combat the growing epidemic of opioid and heroin abuse. The bill passed on a vote of 94 to 1, marking one of the first pieces of legislation to move this year with widespread bipartisan support. The legislation authorizes but does not appropriate funding for treatment and recovery services, alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenders, law enforcement initiatives and programs to prevent overdose deaths and improper prescriptions.

CARA was also introduced in the House as H.R. 953, but Senators urged the House to move quickly on the Senate-passed version in order to avoid a conference. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), co-author of the bill with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), said he has not heard a single objection from the House side and is confident the overwhelming Senate vote in favor of the bill will make way for easy House passage later this spring.

Following Senate passage, the White House issued a statement saying it planned to pledge a significant investment to fight opioid abuse following the failed attempt to add federal funding to the legislation. At the same time, HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell announced Friday that \$94 million in Affordable Care Act funding to 271 health centers in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico would be available to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services in health centers. This funding will be used for medication assisted treatment (MAT), which combines behavioral therapy with medications like naloxone, the opioid antagonist drug that can be used during cases of emergency, to treat substance use disorders and will treat rather than incarcerate addicts.

Senate Mental Health Legislation

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a markup on Wednesday on Mental Health legislation, just a week after introducing the bipartisan measure. The following bills will be considered:

- S. ____, Mental Health Reform Act of 2016
- S. 1455, The Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act
- S. 2256, Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act of 2015
- S. 480, National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting
- S. ____, Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act

The Mental Health Reform Act diverges sharply from the House mental health reform bill introduced nearly a year ago by Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), raising questions about how members will bridge the divide. The Senate's bill is far narrower, though committee leadership has suggested that the legislation is intended as a starting point. Provisions from other committees -- such as criminal justice reforms -- are expected to be added down the road.

As the committee markup occurs, more details on the path forward could come to light. Within the package, there are three bills to address the opioid epidemic that will also be considered. We will send out additional information on the bill specifics as soon as it is made available.

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.

II. State Legislative Update – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

County Sponsored Legislation

Both AB 2471 (Quirk), regarding the dissolution of health care districts, and AB 2575 (Baker) regarding the speed limits on rural roads, are eligible to be amended on March 22nd.

AB 1702 (Stone), regarding commercially sexually exploited children, will be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

Health Care Special Session

The Senate adjourned the Health Care Special Session on Thursday after passing a package of tobacco related bills. With the Special Session being adjourned, all special session bills that were passed and signed by the Governor, including the MCO fix and the End of Life Act, will go into effect in 90-days.

Speaker Change

On Thursday, newly sworn-in Speaker Rendon announced his Leadership Team and changed Committee Chairs. Below is the list of committee changes and Speaker Rendon's Leadership Team.

Assembly Democratic Leadership

Speaker pro Tempore – Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (D-South San Francisco)

Assistant Speaker pro Tempore – Assemblymember Autumn R. Burke (D-Inglewood)

Majority Floor Leader – Assemblymember Ian C. Calderon (D-Whittier)

Assistant Floor Leader – Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove)

Majority Whip – Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles)

Democratic Whip – Assemblymember Nora Campos (D-San Jose)

Assistant Majority Whip – Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley)

Democratic Caucus Chair – Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson)

Assembly Committee Chair Changes

Accountability and Administrative Review – Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens)

Appropriations – Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego)

Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media – Assemblymember Kansen Chu (D-San Jose)

Budget – Assemblymember Phil Y. Ting (D-San Francisco)

Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety – Assemblymember Nora Campos (D-San Jose)

Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Budget Process, Oversight and Program Evaluation – Assemblymember Phil Y. Ting (D-San Francisco)

Business and Professions – Assemblymember Rudy Salas, Jr. (D-Bakersfield)

Elections and Redistricting – Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber (D-San Diego)

Health – Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg)

Human Services – Assemblymember Susan Bonilla (D-Concord)

Local Government – Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton)

Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security – Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland)

Public Safety – Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer (D-South Los Angeles)

Revenue and Taxation – Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (D-Culver City)

Joint Legislative Audit – Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D-Pomona)

Purpose:

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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