

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

**Monday, March 26, 2007
1:30 pm**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Scott Haggerty**

Location: **Board Conference Room-5th floor-County Administration Building**
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION (Jim Copeland/Emily Bacque)

Legislative Update

FY07 War Supplemental

The full House approved its \$124 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill on Friday afternoon by a vote of 218-212. The bill includes language that calls for the withdrawal of most U.S. troops from Iraq by 2008.

A total of 14 Democrats voted against the bill. All Republicans, except for two, voted against the bill.

Out of Iraq Caucus Members Barbara Lee, Lynn Woolsey, Maxine Waters and Diane Watson voted against the bill saying the bill does not go far enough. Congressman Pete Stark voted present.

Democrats have included \$20 billion in non-military spending, including for Katrina-related spending and for agricultural disasters. A few of the specifics are as follows:

- \$750 million the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)
- \$3.7 billion for agriculture disaster relief
- \$2.9 billion for Gulf Coast hurricane recovery efforts
- \$2.5 billion for homeland security

Senate Action

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its own supplemental appropriations bill on Thursday at a total of \$121.57 billion. The bill includes withdrawal language that would require the start of troop withdrawals four months after enactment of the legislation and set a goal for completing the process by March 2008. It also mandates benchmarks for progress in Iraq and regular progress reports from U.S. Commanders.

The full Senate has already rejected a resolution that would have begun scaling back the Iraq mission within four months of adoption and would have set a goal for a 2008 withdrawal. Republicans will offer an amendment on the floor this week to strike the language included in the supplemental.

Administration officials have stated that President Bush will veto the supplemental appropriations bill if it contains troop withdrawal language. In addition, Senate Republicans and the Administration have voiced concern over the \$19 billion in non-defense spending.

FY08 Budget

The Senate passed its FY08 budget resolution on Friday by a vote of 52-47 after accepting over 60 amendments. The Senate budget resolution provides \$16 billion more in discretionary spending than requested by the Administration. The Democratic plan would balance the budget in five years and would restore pay-as-you-go budget rules—requiring offsets to extend President Bush's tax cuts or expand mandatory spending. The Senate resolution did project a surplus of \$132 billion in 2012; however an amendment offered by Senator Baucus dur-

ing floor consideration would use that surplus to extend certain middle class tax cuts and to provide more funding for S-CHIP.

- Senator Feinstein offered an amendment that would increase the budget allocation for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to its fully authorized level of \$950 million. The President's budget did not fund the program, and the Senate Budget Resolution previously included only \$407 million, less than half of the authorized amount. The amendment was accepted by unanimous consent.
- A Biden amendment was accepted that would increase the budget allocation by \$1.15 billion for the Department of Justice COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Program.
- A Lieberman amendment was accepted that would allocate \$731 million in funding for first responders and emergency planning. Of the \$731 million, \$400 million would be for a dedicated communications interoperability grant program.

The House Budget Committee marked up its budget resolution last Wednesday. House floor action will occur this week. The House budget resolution is similar to the Senate version in that it would balance the budget in five years and require pay go rules as well. The House version adds \$24 billion to the President's budget request. The House budget projects a \$153 billion surplus in 2012.

(A budget resolution serves as an overall guideline. While the Appropriations Committees are bound by the spending cap set in a budget resolution, Appropriations ultimately determines how that funding will be allocated.)

Transit Security

The House is expected to vote on a compromise bill tomorrow that combines its Homeland Security Committee approved legislation (HR 1401) and a Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bill (HR1269) that authorize more than \$5.1 billion for the next four years for rail, mass transit and bus security. The bills would establish new grant programs from fiscal 2008-2011: for mass transit, \$3.7 billion; and for buses, \$87 million. The compromise language would allow DHS to conduct vulnerability assessments and make recommendations on the distribution of the grant funding, but DOT would be responsible for administering the grant programs.

II. STATE LEGISLATION (Lynn Suter/Steve Wallauch)

Legislative Update

Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

(Copies of documents related to requests are on file in Board Committee Clerk's Office)

- i. **AB 499 (Swanson) An act to amend sections of the Penal Code and to amend and add sections to the Welfare and Institutions code related to sexually exploited minors**

Recommendation: Support: Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, Board of Supervisors, District 3

This item was continued.

- ii. **AB 596 (Dymally) County employees' retirement: safety members: physicians**

Recommendation: Oppose: Health Care Services Agency

- iii. **SB 20 Pupil nutrition: free and reduced price meals**

Recommendation: Support: Health Care Services Agency

Recommendation from PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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