

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

Monday, January 29, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Lena Tam

Location: Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Schedule

Both the House and Senate are in session this week. The focus will continue to be wrapping up FY24 appropriations, border security, immigration, Ukraine, and Israel.

FY24 Appropriations

On Friday, House and Senate negotiators reached a deal on top-line allocations for the 12 FY24 annual government funding bills, an agreement that allows appropriators to start negotiating the details of each individual spending bill.

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Kay Granger (R-TX), the Appropriations Committees chairs, had been negotiating the funding amounts since a January 7 agreement on high-level defense and non-defense levels. Congress faces funding deadlines on March 1 and March 8. The following bills face the March 1st deadline: Transportation-HUD, Energy and Water, Military Construction and Agriculture. The remaining bills including Labor HHS-Education, Defense, and Commerce-Justice-Science, among others, face the March 8th deadline.

Tax Bill

The House Ways and Means Committee voted nearly unanimously on January 19th to advance a bipartisan tax package that includes an expansion of the child tax credit and a series of breaks for businesses. The package also includes provisions that would reduce withholding taxes on qualified Taiwanese residents doing business in the US, extend privileges to the island similar to those enjoyed by dozens of countries that have formal tax treaties with the US, and authorize the president to negotiate a tax agreement with Taiwan that falls short of a formal treaty, as the US doesn't recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation.

The bill also includes provisions that exempt all wildfire relief payments from federal income taxes and taxation on legal fees, emotional distress, lost wages, and additional living expenses. The bill would also expand the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

Currently, it is uncertain when the full House may consider the legislation. The House could consider the bill later this week or it could be delayed with the expectation that it could be attached to the FY24 appropriations package when it is finalized.

Immigration / Foreign Aid Bill

Senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Chris Coons (D-CT) continue to negotiate a politically challenging border security and immigration bill and have shared bill text with Senate Judiciary Committee Members. A deal is expected to be made public later this week. Also complicating things is the White House's goal of tying this package to additional funding for Ukraine and Israel.

Senate Republican leaders will have a difficult time moving forward with the border security portion of this measure without majority support among Senate Republicans. One challenge for Senate Republicans is the fact that there are Members who back Ukraine but will not support the border security-immigration portion of this package.

It remains to be seen if leaders in the Senate will move to split Ukraine-Israel-Taiwan funding off in hopes of passing something through the Senate to try to put pressure on the House to consider the proposal.

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing On Online Child Exploitation

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on Wednesday regarding Big Tech and Online Child Sexual Exploitation. The Committee's witness panel includes the CEOs of all the major social media companies, including Discord, Meta, Snap, TikTok, and X (formerly known as Twitter). The purpose of the hearing is to highlight the need for new federal regulations of social media companies to help stop the exploitation of kids online. The Committee has already unanimously reported multiple bipartisan bills to help stop the exploitation of kids online, including:

- The STOP CSAM Act, which supports victims and increases accountability and transparency for online platforms.
- The EARN IT Act, which removes tech's blanket immunity from civil and criminal liability under child sexual abuse material laws and establishes a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention.
- The SHIELD Act, which ensures that federal prosecutors have appropriate and effective tools to address the nonconsensual distribution of sexual imagery.
- The Project Safe Childhood Act, which modernizes the investigation and prosecution of online child exploitation crimes; and,
- The REPORT Act, which combats the rise in online child sexual exploitation by establishing new measures to help strengthen reporting of those crimes to the CyberTipline.

The Senate Commerce Committee passed the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) and Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0) to address the ongoing exploitation crisis.

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. Request for Legislation position – Action Item

i. [SB 726](#) (Archuleta) Property Taxation Exemption for Disabled Veteran Homeowners

Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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