

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

Monday, February 5, 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 the Senate are in session this week. The House will recess on Wednesday, while the Senate will recess on Friday. The House will be in session next week. The Senate will be in recess.

Immigration / Foreign Aid Bill

Last night, Senate negotiators released the text of the border security and international aid supplemental. The bill includes \$118 billion in supplemental funding for Ukraine, Israel, the Indo-Pacific, and additional resources at the U.S.-Mexico border. The bill also includes several policy changes to the asylum system and some visa programs.

The bill contains changes to existing law that would enable the President to shut down the southern border to asylum seekers and other migrants. The changes would allow border patrol to turn away migrants who try to cross between ports of entry, except for unaccompanied minors and people fleeing torture. The president would be required to halt entry at the border whenever average daily migrant arrivals hit 5,000 for a week or 8,500 on a single day. He would have the option to do so whenever the daily average hits 4,000 for a week. This requirement is similar to the Title 42 authority used by both Biden and Trump during the pandemic public health emergency but would carry a stricter penalty for anyone who tries repeat crossings — a one-year ban on seeking legal entry.

Migrants would have to show more evidence to establish they have a “reasonable possibility” of qualifying for protection in the United States before they can pursue a case by elevating the credible fear standard, which is the first step in the asylum claim process. The standard for a final determination wouldn’t change, just the initial screening threshold. The bill would also add a combined 50,000 work and family visas a year for the next five years and protect legal foreign workers’ children from aging out of legal status within the H-1B program. The bill contains \$20 billion in border security and immigration provisions.

The border deal was meant to unlock additional relief money for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan but it is possible Congress ultimately decouples the two. House Speaker Johnson released the text of a \$17.6 billion security supplemental funding bill for Israel that the House is expected to consider this week.

Congress Takes on Tax Bills

Last week, the House passed the \$79 billion family and business tax break bill after several days of uncertainty, teeing it up for consideration in the Senate. The bill passed by a vote of 357-70. Republicans voted for the bill by a margin of 169-47.

The bill provides roughly \$33 billion to a trio of business tax breaks and roughly the same amount to expand the child tax credit, with the most significant gains going to low-income families with more than one kid. The legislation would also boost the low-income housing tax credit, end double taxation of U.S. companies operating in Taiwan and provide tax relief to victims of natural disasters.

Republican Senate Chiefs of Staff chided House Majority Leader Scalise for putting the tax bill on the House floor without Senate Republican input. During the closed-door meeting, they complained to Scalise about the ERTC pay-for and other concerns.

Speaker Johnson agreed to put a bill on the floor next week to raise the SALT cap to \$20,000 from \$10,000 for joint filers. The change would apply to tax year 2023 and joint filers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$500,000. The House Rules Committee meets today to draft a rule for the bill's consideration. The bill currently has no offset, unlike the tax deal that passed last night, and faces uncertain odds in the House. The bill will also be brought to the floor under a rule and can pass the chamber by a majority vote.

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*

Proposed Legislation: California's Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program Eligibility Expansion

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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