

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

Monday, June 5, 2023

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

The House and Senate will be in Washington for the next three weeks.

Fiscal Responsibility Act

Last week, the House (314-117) and Senate (63-36) passed a two-year debt ceiling increase bill to avoid a default. Reps. DeSaulnier, Khanna and Lee voted against it while Rep. Swalwell and Senators Feinstein and Padilla all voted to support. President Biden signed the bill into law on Saturday.

In addition to raising the debt ceiling through 2024, the bill also establishes caps on discretionary spending for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. It sets a FY24 defense limit of \$868.349 billion (a 3.3% increase from the current level of \$858.4 billion) and nondefense limit of \$703.651 billion (a 5.4% cut compared to the FY23 omnibus). Spending caps will grow by 1% in FY25, to \$895.212 billion for defense and \$710.688 billion for nondefense.

The bill also redirects \$20 billion from the IRS to other agencies, enacts some new requirements on SNAP and TANF:

SNAP - the bill expands work requirements for “able-bodied adults without dependents” (ABAWD) to individuals up to age 51 starting in FY23, 53 starting in FY24, and 55 starting in FY25. Under current rules, individuals ages 18 through 49 can’t receive SNAP benefits for more than three months in three years if they don’t meet additional work requirements. The measure would exempt homeless, veterans, and individuals aging out of foster care. The provisions sunset on October 1, 2030. TANF - the bill changes the base year used to determine a state’s required work participation rate from 2005 to 2015. It also requires HHS to carry out a pilot program in which it could choose as many as five states replacing their current work participation rate targets, requirements, and penalties with alternative “work and family outcomes” benchmarks negotiated with HHS.

It also rescinds \$28 billion in unspent COVID funds. The bill does not raise taxes or deal with entitlement programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. The bill makes changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to streamline environmental review processes:

- The legislation establishes responsibilities for lead agencies during the review process. If a proposed action involves more than one federal agency, the agencies will be required to evaluate the proposal in a single document. Additionally, the agencies will be required to determine, by letter or memorandum, which agency would act as lead agency.

- The bill will allow agencies to consider the “reasonably foreseeable” environmental effects of proposed major actions and a “reasonable range” of alternatives, including an analysis of negative environmental impacts of not implementing a proposed action. Agencies will not have to prepare environmental analyses under NEPA if the proposed action is not final, is covered by a categorical exclusion, or if the analysis would conflict with requirements from another law.
- The bill codifies elements of the Trump administration’s “One Federal Decision” policy. For environmental impact statements, the goal of completion is within two years, and for environmental assessments the goal of completion is within one year. A project sponsor may petition a court to order the agency to act if it does not meet its deadline. If the court determines the agency failed to act within the applicable deadline, the agency would generally be required to act within 90 days of the court order.

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

To incentivize the passage of all 12 appropriations bills, the Fiscal Responsibility Act states that if all 12 appropriations bills are not enacted by January 1, 2024, discretionary spending will temporarily operate at a maximum of 99% of current levels. As a result, Congressional leaders have pledged to finish the 12 annual spending bills in regular order this year for the first time since 1997. There are six weeks in session before the August break. The House was supposed to begin marking up bills in mid-May, but those plans were delayed by debt ceiling negotiations.

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.

Request for Legislation position – Action Item

i. [HR 1510](#) (Lee) Improving Access to Nutrition Act

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

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

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

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Moving beyond the first house, bills that continue to move this session will restart the process in the second house. Policy Committee hearings are back with a few throughout this week. Also the budget bill deadline is on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The Assembly and Senate have released their budget plans but must reach an agreement on a uniform version.

Hearings this week

The Assembly Select Committee on California’s Mental Health Crisis will be holding an information hearing on Wednesday, June 7, titled “Where do we go from here?” No agenda is available as of yet, but the PS Team will be covering and sending a summary of the discussion afterwards.

Alameda County Sponsored Bills/Budget Requests

Alameda County is sponsoring the following bills and budget requests:

- AB 922 (Wicks) Prepared Meals Delivery Program. -Status: Two-Year Bill. Eligible to move next year.
Bill is accompanied by the following County Budget Request

FY 23-24 Budget Ask Prepared Meals Delivery Program for the Unhoused and Food Insecure in California. Would provide \$6 million annually in state General funds for three years for FY 2023-2024 to fund a Prepared Meals Delivery Program which provides restaurant based prepared meals to the unhoused and food insecure population in California.

- AB 1313 (Ortega) Older individuals: case management and visitation services. - Status: Passed out of Assembly Appropriations Committee. Heads to the Assembly Floor.
Bill is accompanied by the following County Budget Request

FY 23-24 Budget & Legislative Proposal – California Department of Aging Supportive Services. Would provide \$9M over five years to build local assistance capacity in Supportive Services programs. This would be a pilot for Alameda, Sonoma and Marin counties.

- AB 1387 (Ting) In-Home Supportive Services Program: provider shortage: grant-based outreach program. - Co-Sponsor - Status: Held in Committee. Dead.
- District Budget Request: Laundry Vehicles. Alameda requested 2 laundry vehicles. Cost \$300,000 per vehicle. (For a total of \$600,000.)

Key Dates & Deadlines

- Budget Bill Deadline – June 15
- Policy Committee Deadline, Summer Recess Begins upon Adjournment - July 14
- Legislature Reconvenes from Summer Recess - August 14
- Fiscal Committee Deadline –September 1
- Floor Session Only –September 5-14

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation position – Action Items

- AB 1536 (Carillo) Cash Assistance for Aged, Blind and Disabled Immigrants**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency
- SB 600 (Menjivar) California CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Act of 2023**
Recommendation: Support: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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

P:\BOS comms\PAL6_5_23 minutes