

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

Monday, September 30, 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

The House and Senate went into recess last Wednesday. Both chambers remain out of session for the month of October and are scheduled to return on November 12th.

Continuing Resolution

Last week Congress was solely focused on the passage of a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded at current levels through December 20th. The bill includes \$231 million in additional funding for the Secret Service in the wake of the second assassination attempt against President Trump. Both the House and Senate approved the CR with overwhelming bipartisan support last Wednesday evening before lawmakers left town.

Lame Duck Session

Must Pass Legislation

Appropriations/Continuing Resolution: The current continuing resolution (CR) runs through December 20th. The outcome of the November elections will impact whether Congress decides to finalize its FY25 bills prior to December 20 or simply pass another CR that extends into 2025 (and the next Administration).

Disaster Supplemental: The CR lacked any disaster-related funding for FEMA's disaster relief fund. The DRF, which was already running low, will need a substantial influx of funds to pay for rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Helene. Lawmakers of both parties from Vermont, Hawaii, Florida and Maryland have called for spending bills to replenish FEMA and other recovery accounts. The Disaster Relief Fund stands at about \$3.3 billion.

National Defense Authorization Act: Congress has passed an annual defense authorization bill for 63 straight years and is expected to do so again in December. However, the Senate Armed Services Committee reported the National Defense Authorization Act on a 22-3 vote, but the full Senate has not taken up the bill.

On the House side, they were able to pass a bill earlier this summer but on a partisan vote because of several social-issue provisions that were included. Congress will need to negotiate several differences between the two bills. The Senate legislation authorizes \$9 billion more than the House bill. House and Senate negotiators will attempt to resolve differences before the bill is brought to the Senate floor during the lame-duck session.

Health Care: Congress may also act on several health care items that are set to expire including telehealth extensions, Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Centers with Graduate Medical Education, averting certain Medicare payment cuts for doctors; PBM reform; and pharmaceutical competition.

National Flood Insurance Reauthorization: The program is authorized through Dec. 20, tied to the next government funding deadline.

Other May Pass Legislation

Farm Bill: Lawmakers from both parties have pushed their leadership for action on the farm bill before the end of the year. Senior members of the New Democrat Coalition urged action on a bipartisan bill before the end of the year in a letter Wednesday. More than half of House Republicans asked leadership to place the GOP-led farm bill on the floor during the lame duck.

Online Child Safety: The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed a weakened version of the Kids Online Safety Act but many House Democrats were opposed to the changes made by House Republican leadership. It's possible that the Senate includes the Senate-passed version of the bill in a year-end package and jam the House.

WRDA: Both chambers passed their respective versions of the Water Resources Development Act this summer with strong bipartisan votes and now will work to resolve differences and enact a comprehensive bill before the end of 2024. The legislation authorizes civil-works projects for ports and harbors, inland waterways, and flood and storm protection.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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