

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

Monday, February 3, 2020
1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor*
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week. They will gather to hear the President’s State of the Union Address tomorrow, a day before the last scheduled day of the impeachment trial.

Impeachment

On Friday, Senate Republicans blocked Democrats’ efforts to call new witnesses. Senate leadership scheduled the final vote in the impeachment trial of Donald Trump for Wednesday. Lawyers from both sides will make closing arguments today, and the Senate will spend two days debating before the final vote.

State of the Union

Trump will lay out his policy priorities for 2020 on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. He is expected to urge Congress to lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drug prices in addition to addressing trade relations with China and the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

President’s Budget Request

The annual budget is scheduled to be released next Monday, February 10, 2020.

Medicaid Rule Changes

The Center for Medicaid Services issued new guidance to states regarding Medicaid spending. The guidance, “Healthy Adult Opportunity,” will allow states to cap Medicaid spending for certain healthy adults who qualify for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. If states choose to apply for the waiver, they will receive a block grant lump sum of federal funding to cover services for these individuals.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Speaker Pelosi announced that The House plans to vote on Thursday on a resolution to disapprove of the Administration’s proposed changes.

Public Charge Rule

The Trump Administration will begin implementing its new public charge regulations on February 24, 2020 after the Supreme Court decided this week to lift the nationwide injunction.

The rule, originally scheduled to take effect last October, will allow the government to refuse green cards or visas to foreign nationals who are likely to require federal assistance such as Medicaid and SNAP. The new rule will apply to any immigration petition dated on or after February 24, 2020.

House Union Bill

The House is scheduled to vote on the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019, a bill that would amend the National Labor Relations Act to extend protections to union workers. The bill would eliminate right-to-work laws, make it harder for employers to classify workers as independent contractors, and impose penalties against employers who retaliate against unionizing drives, it would grant protections to workers who strike, and it would permit workers to participate in class action litigation.

House Infrastructure Framework

Last week, House Democrats proposed a \$760 billion infrastructure blueprint that would cover highways, rail, wastewater, and broadband over five years. The House did not include a plan to pay for the bill. Highlights of the proposal include: \$329 billion for highways, including revamping formulas to favor efforts that promote infrastructure resiliency. The bill calls for \$105 billion in transit spending, an increase from current levels of transit funding of \$61 billion.

The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on Wednesday to discuss financing options. Witnesses at the hearing provided perspectives on various forms of infrastructure funding and financing including bonds and tax incentives, fuel and miles traveled taxes/fees, tolling, and the role of the federal government in infrastructure as a whole.

Earmarks

House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey is shopping the idea of reinstating earmarks in the Appropriations process. House leaders will make a final decision by the end of this week.

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. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Last week the Legislature worked to move two-year bills out of their house of origin ahead of the January 31, 2020 constitutional deadline. Two-year bills that did not pass off the floor in their house of origin are dead.

Since the Legislature reconvened on January 6, 2020, only 313 bills have been introduced. There are 2,000 bills expected to be introduced over the next few weeks ahead of the February 21, 2020 deadline.

The Legislature has announced several informational hearings on homelessness that will take place in the upcoming weeks.

The Select Committee on Sea Level Rise and the California Economy is holding an informational hearing on “Sea-Level Rise and its Impacts on Coastal Cities.”

Governor Gavin Newsom

Last Monday, January 27, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a statement in response to the US Supreme Court's decision regarding the public charge rule.

Last Thursday, January 30, 2020, Governor Newsom also announced the appointment of Bradley Gilbert as the new director of DHCS in addition to several Department of Social Services appointments.

The Governor will deliver his State of the State Address on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

Budget

The Administration has begun publicizing Budget Trailer Bill Language.

Big City Mayors Coalition

On Monday, January 27, 2020, the mayors of California's 13 largest cities announced that San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo will assume leadership of the coalition at the 2020 U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Big Cities Mayor's Coalition is a collaboration of the leaders from the states' thirteen largest cities who work together to champion the most crucial issues Californians face. In 2020, the Big City leaders plan to pursue a robust political agenda to combat the escalating crisis of affordable housing and homelessness.

Purpose:

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- Other: State update**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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