

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

Monday, March 30, 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

CARES Act Highlights

State and Local Stabilization - The Coronavirus Relief Fund

The bill provides \$150 billion for state, tribal, and local governments to pay for necessary expenses incurred due to COVID-19. Each state will receive at least \$1.25 billion; any amount greater than that will be determined based on population. Local governments of populations greater than 500,000 will be eligible for direct assistance from the federal government. Any direct payments will be taken out of a state's total allocation.

Economic Stabilization Funds

The bill would create a \$500 billion Economic Stabilization Fund. Of that \$500 billion, \$454 billion will go towards businesses, states and municipalities, including counties, to cover losses incurred as a result of COVID-19. The U.S. Treasury is authorized to purchase obligations of states, local governments and political subdivisions of them, to cover losses incurred as a result of COVID-19.

Community Development Block Grants

The bill allocates \$5 billion to Community Development Block Grants. \$2 billion would be provided in direct funding to states and localities under the program's current formula. The bill includes an additional \$1 billion directly for states, and the remaining \$2 billion is to be allocated by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary based on a formula yet to be determined.

Byrne-JAG Grants

The bill provides an additional \$850 million for the Byrne JAG program to help enable counties and other eligible entities to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will allow states and police departments and jails to purchase personal protective equipment and other medical items.

Childcare

The bill provides \$3.5 billion for Child Care Development Block Grants (CCDBG) to provide childcare assistance to essential workers and support publicly-funded childcare providers in deploying various emergency flexibilities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The additional CCDBG funds will be available through September 30, 2021 and may support childcare for health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus without regard to existing CCDBG income eligibility requirements.

The bill notes that states, territories and tribes are “encouraged to place conditions on payments to child care providers that ensure that child care providers use a portion of funds received to continue to pay the salaries and wages of staff,” and may also assist child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures due to the coronavirus.

Mortgages, Foreclosures, and Evictions

The bill provides a moratorium on foreclosures of federally-backed mortgages and allows mortgage holders to request forbearance on those mortgage loans. The bill also applies to mortgages on multifamily properties. Loan borrowers on multifamily properties with a federally-backed mortgage may request a forbearance for up to 30 days, with two additional 30 day extensions by request. The bill also provides a 120-day moratorium on evictions. Also, landlords may not levy fees against tenants for non-payment of rent.

Census

The deadline for the Census has been extended two weeks, from July 31 until August 14. The Census count for people experiencing homelessness has been delayed from April 1 until May 1.

Timing of Individual Payments

Secretary Mnuchin has said people should start to receive payments in the next three weeks.

Small Business Administration

Guidance should be out by Friday.

Unemployment Insurance

The CARES Act does three things related to unemployment: offer more funding, increase the duration of the benefit, and provide payment to those not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, those with limited work history). It also waves the one-week waiting period.

Next Package

Speaker Pelosi has already stated she wants to send more funding to state and local governments in the next funding package. This package will be more of a focus on recovery while the previous packages focused on the emergency. There have been discussions of including infrastructure and pensions.

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

The Legislature and the Administration remain focused on COVID-19 management and response. The Legislature adjourned under a joint recess until April 13, 2020, however legislators and staff continue working remotely on priority issues. The joint recess may extend beyond April 13th.

All previously scheduled committee hearings have been postponed/cancelled during the joint recess. As hearings are reschedule. At this time, it is still unclear how bill packages and budget items will be affected by the COVID-19 related recess.

County Sponsored Priorities

The PS team participated in a conference call last week with County staff and staff from Assembly member Bonta's office to discuss the FAM bill, AB 3118. Additionally, the PS team participated in a conference call with County staff and Assembly member Bonta and his staff to discuss the childcare subsidy pilot. At this point we are all operating under the assumption that the Legislature will return on April 13, 2020.

Governor Gavin Newsom

On Friday, March 27, 2020 Governor Newsom signed an executive order to enhance the authority of California's Judicial Branch to take emergency action in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Governor Newsom and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo "toured the Bloom Energy ventilator refurbishing site in Sunnyvale. Through a partnership with the state, Bloom Energy has transformed its production facility to quickly refurbish life-saving ventilators to provide California with the critical equipment it needs to prepare for a potential surge in COVID-19 patients.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 Governor Newsom announced that beginning Monday, daily briefings will be held at noon.

Governor Newsom announced that leading social media companies, businesses, leaders, and individuals from across the state have leapt into action to partner and support the COVID-19 public awareness campaign. The partnerships include sharing content with the public through social media and other digital platforms, radio and television, and outdoor advertising.

Monday, March 30, 2020

Governor Newsom launched a major new initiative to expand California's health care workforce and recruit health care professionals to address the COVID-19 surge. Health care professionals with an active license, public health professionals, medical retirees, medical and nursing students, or members of medical disaster response teams in California are all encouraged to join the new California Health Corps. Interested medical and health care professionals are encouraged to visit healthcorps.ca.gov for more information and to register for the California Health Corps.

The Governor also signed an executive order that will temporarily expand the health care workforce and allow health care facilities to staff at least an additional 50,000 hospital beds the state needs to treat COVID-19 patients.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

DHCS has published additional and/or updated guidance for providers, beneficiaries, and the public related to COVID-19.

LAO Federal COVID-19 Response Action Series

The LAO has a developing resource available regarding COVID-19 federal actions affecting California. The LAO recently launched a series of posts describing federal COVID-19 response actions and their effects on California. In the coming days, this series will include write ups on the federal emergency declaration, unemployment insurance, health care and public health, food assistance, and others.

Purpose:

- Report progress
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- Other: State update**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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