

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

Monday, December 15, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas

Location: Susan S. Muranishi County
Administration Building
Board Chambers
1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

A. Legislative Update

Schedule

The House and Senate are back in session this week. Both chambers will be out of session next week for the holiday break and return the first week of January 2026.

Health Care in the House

The House is expected to vote this week on a proposal drafted by leadership, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, to address the sharp rise in health care premiums set to take effect at the start of 2026. On Friday, the leadership team met with top Republican leaders to discuss whether to allow an amendment process on the House floor for the health care bill.

Last week, Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) filed a discharge petition seeking to compel a vote on bipartisan legislation that would extend the enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies for two more years and add new eligibility requirements. Negotiations between leadership and the moderates pushing for an ACA vote came close to a deal over the weekend. However, leadership added a key condition last night: that Fitzpatrick identify budgetary offsets to fund the proposal, citing House rules requiring all new spending to be paid for. This position reversed House leadership's stance on the cost of tax credits to the federal budget. Under the rules Republican leaders set for the OBBBA, the ACA's enhanced premium tax credits wouldn't count as adding to the deficit because they extend the current policy baseline and therefore don't require a budgetary offset.

Without an agreement in hand, the moderates plan to offer their bill as an amendment during tomorrow's Rules Committee meeting—a move that's widely expected to fail. With time running out on the legislative calendar and few options left, it remains uncertain whether House moderates will back the Republican leadership's bill when it reaches the floor later this week.

Meanwhile, discharge petitions for compromise ACA extensions remain active. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries' own petition to extend the ACA credits still stands, with support from 214 Democrats. It would take only four Republicans joining them to force a vote on the Democrats' preferred plan. Meanwhile, the Senate rejected dueling health care bills last week. Both the Republican and Democratic plans to address the sharp increase in health costs fell short of the 60 votes necessary to advance.

National Defense Authorization Act

Conferees released the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act last week, finalizing the negotiated authorization package ahead of final action. The conference agreement authorizes the \$900.6 billion in national security spending and includes provisions repealing the 2002 Iraq War and 1991 Gulf War

Authorizations of Military Force, limiting reductions of U.S. troop levels in Europe and South Korea, and providing \$400 million for Ukraine security assistance. The House has already passed the conference bill, and the Senate is expected to take it up and pass it this week.

Appropriations

With the January 30, 2026, continuing resolution deadline approaching, Senate leaders are still wanting to package multiple bills for floor action, including Defense, Labor–HHS, Transportation–HUD (THUD), Commerce–Justice–Science (CJS), and potentially Interior, but are facing opposition from some of their more fiscally conservative members. This will likely be a priority for floor time in the Senate when Congress returns to Washington in January 2026.

The House is expected to wait on Senate movement before taking up additional spending measures.

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

B. Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

i. NPRM, DHS Docket No. USCIS-2025-0304, RIN, 1615-AC06, Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking: Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility

Recommendation: Oppose – Alameda County Social Services Agency and Alameda County Health

[Attachment](#)

Action

Supervisor Fortunato Bas motioned, Supervisor Tam seconded, to move this item to the full Board of Supervisors with recommendation to oppose. The motion passed.

Ayes: Supervisor Fortunato Bas and Supervisor Tam, Chair.

Noes: 0

Abstained: 0

Excused: 0

Motion Passed: 2/0

ii. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Data Reporting and Recordkeeping Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TCSA)

Recommendation: Oppose – Alameda County Health

[Attachment](#)

Action

Supervisor Fortunato Bas motioned, Supervisor Tam seconded, to move this item to the full Board of Supervisors with recommendation to oppose. The motion passed.

Ayes: Supervisor Fortunato Bas and Supervisor Tam, Chair.

Noes: 0

Abstained: 0

Excused: 0

Motion Passed: 2/0

iii. Housing BOOM (Building Occupancy Opportunities for Millions) ACT

Recommendation: Support – Sandi Rivera, Director, Community Development Agency

[Attachment](#)

Presenters

Michelle Starratt, Director, Housing & Community Development Department, Community Development Agency

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Action

Supervisor Fortunato Bas motioned, Supervisor Tam seconded, to move this item to the full Board of Supervisors with recommendation to support. The motion passed.

Ayes: Supervisor Fortunato Bas and Supervisor Tam, Chair.

Noes: 0

Abstained: 0

Excused: 0

Motion Passed: 2/0

II. State Legislation

A. Legislative Update – Full Moon Strategies

Monthly Jobs Report – Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO)

The Legislative Analyst’s Office’s reported a weakening in the state’s labor market, marking a fourth straight month of net job losses. The business survey showed a loss of 4,500 jobs in September, while August was revised sharply downward from a gain of 4,000 to a loss of 10,300. Meanwhile, the household survey suggests slowing momentum since June, with employment declining and unemployment rising. From July through September, employment fell by 15,000 as the labor force grew, pushing the unemployment rate up from 5.4 percent to 5.6 percent. While month-to-month data can be volatile, the recent trend represents a clear shift from the stronger labor market conditions seen earlier in the year.

Attorney General Bonta Sues Over Trump Administration’s Unlawful New \$100K Fee for H-1B Visa

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, joined by a coalition of 20 attorneys general from other states, has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration’s \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions, arguing it violates federal law and the U.S. Constitution. The lawsuit contends that the Department of Homeland Security exceeded its authority by imposing a massive fee not authorized by Congress, bypassing required rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedure Act, and undermining the purpose of the H-1B program, which helps employers address critical labor shortages. According to the lawsuit, the fee, ordered by Presidential Proclamation in September 2025, threatens public employers, schools, universities, and healthcare providers that rely on highly skilled foreign workers, particularly in education and medicine. Bonta warns that the policy will exacerbate staffing shortages, strain public services, and compel institutions to divert resources away from essential programs, ultimately harming communities across California and the nation.

Senate Budget Chair Knocks Newsom’s Bay Area Transit Funding Plan

California Senate Budget Chair Scott Wiener criticized the Newsom administration for proposing to use funds earmarked for long-term Bay Area transit projects to cover short-term operating deficits, calling the approach “disappointing and concerning.” The plan, put forward by the Department of Finance after lawmakers failed to finalize a \$750 million general fund loan, would allow the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to issue short-term loans backed by existing project funds. Wiener warned the proposal could undermine planned construction and force agencies into tighter repayment timelines, as transit systems like BART, Muni, and Caltrain face severe budget shortfalls and the risk of major service cuts in 2026. While a voter-approved sales tax could provide stable funding starting in 2027, Wiener stressed that a stopgap solution must be reached by January to prevent a near-term transit crisis.

Newsom Taps Former CDC Leaders to Launch California Public Health Innovation Exchange

Governor Gavin Newsom announced the launch of the Public Health Network Innovation Exchange (PHNIX), a California-led initiative aimed at modernizing public health infrastructure and strengthening science-based decision-making amid what state leaders describe as a federal retreat from evidence-driven policy. The Governor announced today that the state is bringing on former Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Dr. Susan Monarez, former CDC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Debra Houry, and epidemiologist and science communicator Dr. Katelyn Jetelina to lead the effort alongside the California Department of Public Health. PHNIX will focus on public health innovation, cross-state and global collaboration, advanced technology, and improved communication to rebuild trust in public health

institutions. The initiative positions California as a national and global leader in public health coordination, data modernization, and community engagement, ensuring stronger preparedness and more reliable health information for Californians and beyond.

US Judge Hears Lawsuits Over ICE Arrests at Courthouses, Immigration Check-Ins

Since May, there have been more than 100 arrests across Northern and Central California as asylum seekers and others attend required check-in appointments with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Now, Federal U.S. District Judge P. Casey Pitts, is set to decide whether to temporarily block the Trump administration from making such arrests in the halls of immigration courthouses. Lawyers representing immigrants challenging rearrests argued that both the courthouse arrests and the rearrest of people who had been previously released were arbitrary and illegal. Furthermore, they claim the arrests deter people from showing up to defend themselves in immigration court, which could result in them automatically losing their case and being deported in absentia. However, lawyers for the federal government argue that ICE has the authority to make arrests where and how the agency deems fit, claiming the new policies allowing arrests in or near courthouses reflect the will of the voters who elected Trump. Judge Pitts said he will rule “as quickly as possible” on the question of halting the arrests by ICE as the related cases play out.

Update on Polluter’s Pay Initiative: SB 684 (Menjivar)

SB 684 was put forward for County support on December 15, 2025; however, the measure, known as The Polluter's Pay initiative (AB 1243/SB 684) to make oil and gas companies pay for climate damages, will not advance in January 2026. Opposition from labor, business, and oil and gas groups stalled the two bills in 2025, turning them into two-year measures. Ahead of the upcoming deadline for two-year bills in January 2026, authors Assemblymember Dawn Addis and Senator Caroline Menjivar, along with environmental supporters, have reportedly dropped the statehouse effort to focus instead on local initiatives. The move is strategic, allowing them to focus on passing resolutions of support in various cities to preempt further opposition at the State level.

Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

- January 5, 2026 – The State Legislature reconvenes to continue work on bills and budget matters.
- January 10, 2026 – The Governor’s Budget will be submitted. It will outline proposed spending, revenue projections and policy priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.
- February 20, 2026 – Last day to proposing new bills for consideration during the session.

Key Deadlines & Processes for Carryover Bills (Two-Year Bills):

- Amendments to a two-year bill must be submitted by December 15, 2025, to Legislative Counsel.
- Two-year bills must pass their house of origin by January 31, 2026 of the second year.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State Legislative Update**

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

B. Request for Legislation Position – Action Item

- i. SB 684 (Menjivar) Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025**
Recommendation: Support – Alameda County Health

[Attachment](#)

Presenters

Jessica Blakemore, Interim Policy Director, Alameda County Health

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Amy Costa, CJ Lake

Public Speakers

Joan Cardellino, Indivisible; Lin Griffith; Kate Harrison; Steve Lew; Heather McLeod, Youthpower Climate Action; and Rod Fujita, Indivisible commented on this item.

Action

The committee agreed to postpone any motion on the item to the January 19, 2026, PAL Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.