

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

**Monday, September 29, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

**Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas**

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 Senate returns for votes this evening and is expected to be in session all week. The House is scheduled to return to Washington on October 7, but Speaker Johnson has said he could call them back earlier if a funding deal is reached between Republicans and Democrats.

Government Funding - Continuing Resolution

The new fiscal year begins on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, without a deal on funding prior to Wednesday, the federal government will shut down. Over the weekend, the White House announced President Trump would hold a meeting this afternoon with Speaker Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leaders Jeffries and Schumer. Both sides have said no deal was reached on a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) during the meeting.

On September 19th, the House of Representatives passed a short-term clean CR to fund the government until November 21, 2025. All House Democrats except Maine's Rep. Jared Golden opposed the bill, insisting additional provisions should be included that extend the enhanced Affordable Care Act Subsidies which are set to expire at the end of the year.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune also held votes on September 19th in the Senate on the House-passed CR and a Democratic alternative. The Democratic CR would have funded the government until October 31, extended health insurance subsidies, and restored roughly \$1 trillion in funding to Medicaid. That bill failed by a vote of 47 to 45. Subsequently, the House-passed CR failed by a vote of 44 to 48.

On Wednesday, September 24, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) distributed a memo to all federal agencies detailing how the Administration plans to handle a potential shutdown. The memo sets forth a plan to drastically and permanently reduce the federal workforce if a lapse in funding occurs. While shrinking the size of the federal workforce is a priority for the Trump Administration, the memo also applies significant pressure on Senate Democrats to vote in favor of the House-passed CR, which would keep the government open through November 21.

What to Expect During a Shutdown

A government shutdown will start on October 1st if Congress fails to reach agreement on funding before the September 30th deadline. Both the House and Senate have rejected each other's continuing resolution (CR) proposals, and the White House has instructed agencies to prepare reduction-in-force plans.

At the same time, Democrats have signaled they are prepared to withstand Republican pressure tactics, making a prolonged shutdown a possibility.

When a shutdown begins, the immediate impact is on federal operations and the workforce. Employees in national security, law enforcement, and other critical roles continue to report to work without pay until funding is restored, while hundreds of thousands of other federal workers are furloughed. This can impact everything from agency regulatory and permitting work to the processing of passports and visas. Even programs that are considered essential, such as Social Security and Medicare, may see strain in administrative support and customer service.

A significant ramification of a shutdown will be the freezing of new federal contracts and grants, which can have significant implications for businesses and projects across the nation. Some, but not all, agencies have made public their contingency plans for a shutdown.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update

Governor Gavin Newsom has until October 13 to either sign or veto the bills currently on his desk. Late last week, he returned from New York City, where he participated in Climate Week and other events. During the trip, he made several public appearances and spoke on both national politics and climate issues. Now that the Governor is back in the State, we anticipate more bill signings and vetoes this week.

Alameda County Sponsored Bill - Signed by the Governor

SB-617 California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act - On Friday, September 26, 2025, Senator Arreguin was notified that Governor Gavin Newsom signed an Alameda County–sponsored bill to strengthen the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act (WARN). The legislation enhances Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications by requiring additional information on dislocated worker assistance.

Senator Arreguin’s office will release a statement announcing the Governor’s signing of SB 617, which will include comments from Supervisor Tam on behalf of Alameda County.

California’s Strategic Response to Federal Public Health Changes: AB 144 and the West Coast Health Alliance

In a recent webinar hosted by California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Secretary Kim Johnson, California outlined its strategic response to federal policy changes affecting public health, focusing on Assembly Bill 144 (which Alameda County supported) and the formation of the West Coast Health Alliance.

Speakers, including Dr. Erica Pan (CA Department of Public Health) and Director Watanabe, California Department of Managed Health Care, detailed two main topics: AB 144 shifts authority for immunization guidelines from the politically influenced federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to CDPH, ensuring that California-regulated health plans covering over 30 million residents maintain access to vaccines, COVID-19 tests, and treatments without cost-sharing, while also granting pharmacists expanded administration authority and providing provider liability protections.

The West Coast Health Alliance, in partnership with Hawaii, Washington, and Oregon, coordinates evidence-based guidance from trusted national organizations to maintain scientific integrity and promote vaccine access across states. The state also launched the "FACT Coalition" to combat misinformation and improve public outreach, with resources including data dashboards, social media toolkits, and DMHC's Help Center.

Last week, during an appearance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, California Gov. Gavin Newsom emphasized the importance of ensuring that vaccines are scientifically validated and accessible to everyone. He explained that normally, insurance coverage depends on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations, but if federal guidance is limited, millions could lose access to coverage. To prevent this, California is requiring health plans to cover all recommended vaccines and is conducting its own independent analysis to base decisions in the State.

AB 144 Resources

- ❖ Updated California law requires health plans and insurance companies regulated by the State of California, including Medi-Cal plans, to continue covering regular immunizations recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This includes flu, COVID-19, and RSV.
- ❖ CDPH's vaccine recommendations
- ❖ Medi-Cal coverage of vaccines
- ❖ Commercial coverage of vaccines

End-of-Session Outcomes for Priority Policy Bills – Alameda County

| Bill Number | Title | Author | Position | Status |
|-------------|---|---------------|----------|------------------------|
| SB 48 | Safe Access to Schools | Lena Gonzalez | Support | S - Enrollment |
| AB 1288 | Registered environmental health specialists | Addis | Support | A - Enrollment |
| AB 564 | Cannabis: excise tax: rate increase repeal | Haney | Support | Signed by the Governor |
| SB 81 | Health and care facilities: information sharing | Arreguin | Support | Signed by the Governor |
| AB 1261 | Immigration: unaccompanied undocumented minors: right to legal counsel | Bonta | Support | A - Enrollment |
| SB 554 | Law enforcement: immigration enforcement | Jones | Oppose | A - Enrollment |
| AB 543 | Medi-Cal: street medicine | Gonzalez | Support | A - Enrollment |
| SB 404 | Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities | Caballero | Oppose | S - Enrollment |
| AB 349 | Increasing Infant Supplement to Support Parenting Foster Youth | Dixon | Support | A - Enrollment |
| SB 660 | California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework | Menjivar | Support | S - Enrollment |
| SB 454 | PFAS Mitigation Program, State Water Resources Control Board | McNerney | Support | S - Enrollment |
| AB 554 | Health care coverage: antiretroviral drugs, drug devices, and drug products | Gonzalez | Support | A - Enrollment |

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| AB 309 | Hypodermic needles and syringes | Zbur | Support | A - Enrollment |
| AB 607 | CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program | Rodriguez | Support | A - Enrollment |
| AB 1037 | Public health: substance use disorder | Elhawary | Support | A - Enrollment |
| SB 617 | California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act. | Arreguin | Sponsor | Signed by the Governor |

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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