



County of Los Angeles ^{PA}
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 7, 2005

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To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
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From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Budget Conference Committee Update

State Mandates. During the course of its work last week, the Conference Committee acted to create a Legislative staff working group on the funding of state mandates. For the most part, the Conference Committee deferred action on mandate issues, and charged the working group with bringing a coherent package of recommended mandate actions back to the Conferees in light of Proposition 1A. The recommendations will encompass all mandates subject to Proposition 1A regardless of whether they are in Conference.

No set deadline has been given to the working group, but they have been charged with reporting back to the Conferees as soon as possible. The referrals to the working group include funding for the three election mandates (voter registration procedures, absentee ballots and permanent absentee ballots, the open meeting (Brown Act) mandate, and the Police Officer Bill of Rights (POBOR) mandate.

However, before the Committee adjourned on Friday, they did act to adopt statutory trailer bill language which would direct the Commission on State Mandates to reevaluate the statement of decision governing the ability of counties and other local governments to claim the costs associated with making mandate claims. This reevaluation was to be undertaken in light of recent court decisions on mandates. The issue of funding this mandate was also referred to the mandates working group.

Property Tax Administration Grant (PTAG) Program. On Friday, the Department of Finance (DOF) presented a new PTAG proposal to the Conferees. In addition to maintaining funding for Los Angeles and most other counties, the new plan adds funding for Marin and San Mateo Counties. The DOF plan will still leave five small counties that have never applied for PTAG funding out of the program.

Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System. On June 6, 2005, the Conference Committee adopted the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) proposal for the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) by a vote of 4 to 2. The LAO's proposed budget trailer bill language maintains fingerprinting for CalWORKs cases and General Assistance with Food Stamp cases, eliminates the SFIS requirement for food-stamp-only cases and eliminates photographing requirements for cash aid and food-stamp-only applicants as required by California's October 1, 1999 SFIS regulations. The LAO's compromise proposal closely resembles Los Angeles County's revised policy recommendation except for elimination of the photographing requirement.

Pursuit of County-Position on Legislation

AB 1565 (Pavley), as amended on May 27, 2005, would authorize the California Children and Families Commission in coordination with the State Department of Education, the State Department of Social Services, and other interested parties to develop a proposal for creating a statewide voluntary star quality rating system for child day care facilities to encourage child care providers to provide a higher standard and quality of care than is currently required under the California Child Day Care Act. The rating system must rate each facility according to its adult-to-child ratio, group size, staff qualifications, staff employment stability, working conditions, and family and community involvement, and requires the system to recognize each facility that exceeds existing licensing standards.

The Policy Roundtable for Child Care indicates that a voluntary quality rating system will help families make informed choices as they seek and select child care and development services that provide quality experiences for their children and indicates that AB 1565 is consistent with their draft five-tier quality rating system for child day care facilities. The Policy Roundtable for Child Care recommends that the County support AB 1565, and we concur. Support for AB 1565 is consistent with existing policy to support efforts to increase funding and access to high quality early care and education services. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1565.**

AB 1565 is sponsored by the author, and there is no registered support or opposition. This measure passed the Assembly Floor on June 1, 2005 by a vote of 54 to 21, and is currently at the Senate Desk awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

County-supported if amended AB 109 (Chan), which would require county First 5 commissions to adopt policies and procedures regarding conflict of interest, contracting and procurement, employee salaries and benefits, and place limits on the amount of its operating budget that can be spent on administrative functions, was amended on June 1, 2005 to address First 5 LA's concerns related to program outcome data collection criteria as required by the State Commission. The measure passed the Assembly Floor on June 2, 2005 by a vote of 55 to 22, and now proceeds to the Senate.

County-supported AB 208 (Gordon) passed the Assembly on May 31, 2005 by a vote of 76 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate. This measure has been amended to allow school districts that have elected to become a school district of choice prior to April 1, 2005, to give priority for transfers to the children of military personnel, and to establish specific timelines within which such a transfer may be requested by the enlisted parent or guardian and accepted or rejected by the school district.

County-supported if amended AB 696 (Chu), which would: 1) replace the quarterly reporting in CalWORKs and Food Stamps with semi-annual reporting; 2) provide categorical eligibility to Food Stamp benefits for certain Medi-Cal participants; 3) simplify Food Stamp verification requirements; 4) require the State to seek a Federal waiver to exempt certain Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents from the 3 month limit to Food Stamp benefits, and allow eligible counties to opt out of the waiver; 5) eliminate the requirement to maintain a statewide fingerprint imaging system for use in connection with eligibility for CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and General Assistance; and 6) hold counties harmless from the Federal food stamp error rate penalties resulting from the implementation of categorical eligibility to Food Stamp benefits for certain Medi-Cal participants, passed the Assembly Floor on June 2, 2005 by a vote of 47 to 32, and now proceeds to the Senate.

County-supported AB 889 (Ruskin), which would continue the authority of counties to collect registration fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices through January 1, 2011, and would revise various fee schedules, passed the Assembly on June 2, 2005 by a vote of 44 to 34. The bill proceeds to the Senate.

County-supported AB 1605 (Wolk) was placed on the inactive file as requested by the author. This measure is similar to SB 1018 (Simitian) which would add financial institutions to those businesses designated as mandated reporters of financial abuse perpetrated against elder and dependent adults and would apply civil penalties for failure to report, and immunity from civil liability for making such reports, to officers and employees of financial institutions, consistent with provisions applicable to mandated reporters under current law.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK

DW:DS:MF:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
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Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations