



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

February 27, 2014

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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**
 - **AB 1637 (Frazier and Bloom).** This measure would allow an applicant for a California driver's license or identification card to request that the license or card be printed with the word "VETERAN" on its face. Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support legislation to allow a person discharged from the Armed Forces, upon applying for a driver's license or identification card, to request that the designation veteran be printed on their card, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 1637.**
 - **AB 2314 (Hall).** This measure would require the chief probation officer of each county to train and arm those probation officers and deputy probation officers who are assigned supervision of persons on probation or post-release community supervision that are deemed high-risk. Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing Board-approved policy to oppose any abridgement or elimination of the Board of Supervisors' powers and duties unless the change promotes a higher priority of the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will oppose AB 2314.**

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- **Legislation of County Interest**

- **AB 2511 (Bradford)**. As introduced on February 21, 2014, this measure would establish a permanent citizens' oversight committee for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to review and evaluate the practices and performance of the department.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1637 (Frazier and Bloom), which as introduced on February 11, 2014, would allow an applicant for a California driver's license or identification card to request that the license or card be printed with the word "VETERAN" on its face. The bill would require the applicant to present to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) documentation attesting to their status as a veteran.

Existing law does not allow for California driver's license and identification cards to have a printed designation indicating the holder of the card is a veteran. While the DMV allows for applicants to indicate whether he or she has served in the Armed Forces on an application for a driver's license or identification card, the purpose of that designation is to provide consent to be contacted regarding eligibility for State or Federal veterans' benefits.

According to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, AB 1637 would allow veterans seeking benefits offered by private parties, such as department stores and service stations, to easily and accurately verify their status as veterans. It would also enable law enforcement officers and other public agents who come into contact with veterans to refer them to available services.

Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support legislation to allow a person discharged from the Armed Forces, upon applying for a driver's license or identification card, to request that the designation veteran be printed on their card, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 1637.**

AB 1637 has been double referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. No hearing dates have yet been scheduled.

AB 2314 (Hall), which as introduced on February 21, 2014, would require the chief probation officer of each county to train and arm those probation officers and deputy probation officers who are assigned supervision of persons on probation or

post-release community supervision (PRCS) that are deemed high-risk and would require every county probation department to promulgate regulations consistent with these provisions.

Existing law provides that a probation officer may carry a firearm only if authorized by his or her employing agency and under the terms and conditions specified by his or her employing agency. Currently, approximately 80 percent of county probation departments statewide have some armed officers and many counties review the decision on a case-by-case basis.

AB 2314 would require all county chief probation officers to arm every probation officer who supervises probationers, including juveniles, and anyone on PRCS who is deemed to be a high-risk individual. This measure would change the current practice of allowing probation officers to carry a firearm only with the authorization of their employing agency to requiring that they carry a firearm. In its current form, the bill does not proscribe any process or circumstances in which a county probation department or a board of supervisors could revoke the requirement that a probation officer supervising high-risk individuals be armed. Finally, the bill does not define high-risk individual or specify how an individual on a probation or PRCS caseload is categorized as high-risk.

Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing Board-approved policy to oppose any abridgement or elimination of the Board of Supervisors' powers and duties unless the change promotes a higher priority of the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will oppose AB 2314.**

AB 2314 is identical to **County-opposed AB 1040 (Wieckowski) of 2013**, which failed to proceed in the Assembly last year.

AB 2314 is currently in the Assembly pending referral to committee.

Legislation of County Interest

AB 2511 (Bradford), which as introduced on February 21, 2014, would establish in the County of Los Angeles a permanent citizens' oversight committee for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and would require the committee to review and evaluate the practices and performance of the department and to prepare a report containing the committee's findings. The bill would also require the County to provide reimbursement for all reasonable costs incurred by the committee.

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As currently drafted, AB 2511 does not specify the number of members of the citizens' oversight committee or the length of the term to be served and only indicates that members must be residents of the County of Los Angeles. More importantly, the bill does not specify who would be responsible for appointing the members of the committee. AB 2511 does not specify the timeframe or scope of Sheriff's Department practices and performance that the committee would be required to review or to what body and how often the committee would present its report(s).

AB 2511 is currently in the Assembly pending referral to committee.

This office will closely monitor AB 2511 and keep the Board advised. However, it is important to note that any advocacy on this measure would be a matter of Board policy determination.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:KA:ma

c: All Department Heads
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