March 17, 2011

Budget Bill Passes

The Senate and Assembly continued passing budget bills this afternoon, including the annual Budget Bill itself and several trailer bills. Every bill related to the budget has now cleared both houses, with four major exceptions. One of the measures they have not yet approved is the constitutional amendment that would extend tax rates and implement realignment. The other three are bills that would 1) call a special election, 2) eliminate redevelopment agencies, and 3) raise various other tax revenues. Both houses are on call through the weekend and have scheduled floor sessions for Monday.

With our energy so focused on realignment, counties should not forget that this budget, as passed, contains substantial reductions to county programs, and will have major impacts on our residents.

Unlike the trailer bills that passed yesterday, which all gained 2/3 approval, most of today's bills passed with only majorities. Proposition 25 allows these to take immediate effect because they are necessary to implement the Budget Bill. The Governor has twelve days to sign or veto them.

Budget Trailer Bill	Topic	Status
AB 95	Resources	Approved
AB 109	Criminal Justice	Approved
AB 111	AB 900	Approved
SB 69	Budget Conference Report	Approved
SB 70	Education	Approved
SB 78	Judiciary	Approved
SB 84	Loans	Approved
SB 86	Tax Compliance	Approved

The Republicans hold a convention beginning tomorrow here in Sacramento. No doubt many of the Republicans who have indicated they might vote for the tax extension/realignment measure with the right incentives will face pressure not to.

Next week might be another long one. Stay tuned.

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