

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM
3.6
(ID # 3721)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

FROM : SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES: Reforms to Board Policy A-27: Legislation Coordination. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office to make the following changes to the legislative advocacy program (Board Policy A-27):

- 1) Any letter of endorsement or opposition for legislation sent to state or federal legislators that resulted from a direct vote by the Board of Supervisors shall indicate the actual vote in the letter.
- 2) Any legislation endorsement or opposition letter shall include the date version of the bill being endorsed or opposed.
- 3) Any legislative endorsement or opposition letter that is based on a general legislative platform position and not on a specific Board vote shall be included as a consent item on the next Board agenda.
- 4) The Board shall receive a regular written report on the status of legislation that the Board has officially endorsed or opposed, to be included as part of the consent calendar.

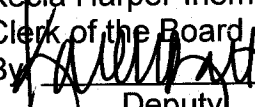
ACTION: Policy


Supervisor Kevin Jeffries 3/1/2017

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended; and IT WAS FURTHER ORDERED to amend recommendation one to read "Any letter of endorsement or opposition for legislation sent to state or federal legislators that resulted from a direct vote by the Board of Supervisors shall indicate the Board action in the letter."

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: March 7, 2017
xc: All Districts

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By 
Deputy

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BACKGROUND:

Riverside County Board of Supervisors has employed legislative advocates in both Sacramento and Washington DC, as well as within the Executive Office, to represent the County's interests through the legislative process, as described in Board Policy A-27. Improving communications between the lobbyists, the Executive Office, and the members of the Board of Supervisors can help better coordinate our efforts, keep the public informed on legislation of interest to the County, and ensure that Board Members are aware of specific actions being taken on their behalf. Better clarity in the letters being written will also guarantee that their support is not being misrepresented by creating a false sense of unanimity or that their vote for a bill that has been significantly amended is still valid, which can benefit both Board Members and Legislators alike.

This measure would require that any letter of endorsement or opposition for legislation sent to state or federal legislators that resulted from a direct vote by the Board of Supervisors shall indicate the actual vote in the letter (unanimous, 4-1, 3-2, etc.), to clarify the level of support or opposition to the legislation. Furthermore, any legislation endorsement or opposition letter needs to include the date of the version of the bill being endorsed or opposed, so that if the bill is significantly amended later, there will not be any confusion over which version was endorsed by the Board.

Any legislative endorsement or opposition letter sent on behalf of the Board of Supervisors that is based on a general legislative platform position and not on a specific Board vote needs to be included as a consent item on the next possible Board agenda. This will allow Board Members and the public to see what actions have been taken, and to allow a letter to be rescinded if Board members disagree with the legislative action taken by staff.

The Board also needs to receive a regular (at least monthly while the legislature is in session) written status report on all legislation that the Board has officially endorsed or opposed in the current legislative session, to be included as part of the consent calendar. This report should include any significant amendments to bills made subsequent to endorsement or opposition taken by the Board, so that the Board may change its position if necessary. This information will also help Board Members more effectively work with our local delegation as various legislative deadlines and committee hearings occur, so that they may communicate with them personally when appropriate.

IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR AND BUSINESS

Improved communication between the County's legislative advocates, our Executive Office, and the Board of Supervisors will allow the County to more effectively achieve its legislative goals on behalf of our constituents, and requiring publication of legislative endorsements and status will provide more transparency and information to the general public and the media.