

**ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5  
ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Assemblymember Manny Diaz, Chair**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 127  
4:00**

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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**CONSENT CALENDAR****ITEM 2700****OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**

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The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) administers the California Traffic Safety Program. Under the provisions of State law, the office conducts a wide range of activities designed to reduce deaths, injuries and property damage that result from traffic accidents. Activities include: (1) developing the California Highway Safety Plan, which identifies major traffic safety problems, appropriate countermeasure programs and available state and federal funds; (2) administering funds to state and local governmental entities in the form of project grants; and (3) coordinating statewide traffic safety programs and activities. The nine priority areas of traffic safety are alcohol and drugs, occupant protection, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic records, emergency medical services, roadway safety, police traffic services, motorcycle safety and speed control.

The Governor's proposed budget includes a total of \$84.8 million for the OTS for the 2004-05 budget year, the same level of funding that is provided in the current year. Of this amount, \$84.4 million is from federal funds to be used for grants and \$392,000 is from the Motor Vehicle Account to be used for staffing.

**COMMENTS:**

The budget for the Office of Traffic Safety is proposed for consent.

## ITEMS TO BE HEARD

### **ITEM 2720 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for ensuring the safe, lawful, and efficient transportation of persons and goods along the state's highway system, and providing protective services and security for state employees and property.

#### **ISSUE 1: INFORMATIONAL ONLY – GENDER EQUITY IN RECRUITING**

The Chair has requested specific information from the CHP regarding gender equity issues in recruiting at the CHP.

#### **COMMENTS:**

As a matter of public policy and to ensure the best force possible, it is critical that women have an equal opportunity as men to become members of the CHP force.

The CHP should report at the hearing regarding these issues.

**ITEM 2720 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**ISSUE 2: INFORMATIONAL ONLY – HOMELAND SECURITY EXPENDITURES AND FEDERAL FUNDS**

As identified in the Governor's Budget Summary, California has spent approximately \$265 million in homeland security efforts that have not been reimbursed by the federal government.

The Budget Summary also points out that the federal government's distribution methodology among states is based on per capita allocation and not without regard to vulnerability to terrorist attack.

**COMMENTS:**

The CHP and the Department of Finance should report at hearing on the following issues:

- Amount of state funds expended for Homeland Security efforts by fund (General Fund, Motor Vehicle Account, etc).
- Impact on other CHP responsibilities due to diverted funds.
- Updated projections on receiving federal reimbursements for Homeland Security.
- Overview of the Administration's efforts to secure federal reimbursements.

**ITEM 2720 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**ISSUE 3: CHP BUDGET (INCLUDING FINANCE LETTER)**

The Governor's proposed budget includes \$1.27 billion for the CHP, a reduction of approximately \$14 million from current year expenditures.

The primary funding sources for the CHP's budget is the Motor Vehicle Account (\$1.14 billion) and the State Highway Account (\$46.8 million). The Governor's proposed budget includes no funding from the General Fund for the CHP.

On April 1, the Department of Finance submitted a Finance letter requesting the following changes to proposed budget:

- Increase of \$1.9 million from the Motor Vehicle Account for increased Interagency Service Rates.
- Increase of \$375,000 primarily from the State Highway Account for the CHP's share of the operations and management costs for the new Los Angeles Regional Transportation Management Center.

**COMMENTS:**

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has not raised any concerns with the proposed budget or the Finance Letter.

**ITEM 2740 DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

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The Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) objectives are: (1) to protect the public interest in vehicle and vessel ownership, to provide various revenue collection services for state and local agencies and to provide miscellaneous registration-related services through the vehicle and vessel registration and titling process; (2) to promote highway safety and financial responsibility by regulating the issuance and retention of driver licenses and to provide personal identification services to drivers and nondrivers; and (3) to provide public protection by licensing and regulating occupations and businesses related to the manufacture, transport, sale and disposal of vehicles and occupations and businesses related to the instruction of drivers in the safe operation of vehicles on the highways.

**ISSUE 1: INFORMATIONAL ITEM – WAIT TIMES AND RELATED ISSUES**

The LAO 2004-05 Budget Analysis provides a significant discussion on various issues regarding wait times, efficiencies in the Drivers License Program, and field office congestion.

The LAO's findings include that:

- DMV staffing has been reduced by 1,000 positions in recent years and workload has increased steadily, which has resulted in the average wait time in DMV offices to now be over 60 minutes.
- Issuance of new driver licenses are unnecessarily labor intensive and costly.
- Field Office congestion is made worse by large numbers of motorists eligible to renew their licenses via mail opt instead to renew in person.

Since the release of the Governor's budget, the DMV has hired 400 positions to help mitigate the staffing problems at the DMV.

**COMMENTS:**

The LAO should provide an overview of their concerns with the DMV at the hearing.

The LAO and the DMV should also report on their progress in working together to make improvements in the DMV operations.

**ITEM 2740 DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

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**ISSUE 2: DMV BUDGET (INCLUDING FINANCE LETTER)**

The Governor's proposed budget includes \$705.3 million for the DMV, a reduction of approximately \$14 million from current year expenditures.

The primary funding sources for the DMV's budget is the Motor Vehicle Account (\$382 million) and the Motor Vehicle License Fee Account (\$269 million). The Governor's proposed budget includes no funding from the General Fund for the DMV.

On April 1, the Department of Finance submitted a Finance letter requesting an increase of \$16.9 million to cover the costs of the 400 positions hired to reduce wait times at DMV offices.

**COMMENTS:**

The LAO has not raised any concerns with the proposed budget or the Finance Letter other than those discussed in Issue 1, above.