The Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Legislative/Lobby Committee will conduct a Special Meeting, at the following time and place, and will address the agenda listed below:

CITY HALL
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Teleconference/Video Conference Meeting

Beverly Hills Liaison Meeting
https://www.gotomeet.me/BHLiaison

You can also dial in by phone:
United States (Toll Free): 1-866-899-4679 or United States: 1-646-749-3117
Access Code: 660-810-077

Wednesday, August 12, 2020
5:00 PM

Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 members of the Beverly Hills City Council and staff may participate in this meeting via a teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in the teleconference/video conference by using this link: https://www.gotomeet.me/BHLiaison or by phone at 1-866-899-4679 or 1-646-749-3117, Access Code: 660-810-077. Written comments may be emailed by 12:00pm on the date of the meeting to mayorandcitycouncil@beverlyhills.org and will be read at the meeting.

AGENDA

A. Oral Communications

1. Public Comment
   Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.
   Video: https://www.gotomeet.me/BHLiaison
   Phone: 1-866-899-4679 or 1-646-749-3117
   Access Code: 660-810-077

B. Direction

1. Assembly Bill 1492 (Boerner Horvath) - Employment: Telecommuting Act
   Comment: This item seeks direction on AB 1492, which, among other things, would authorize any nonexempt employee working from home who is not under the physical control of the employer to choose when to take any meal or rest period during the workday, if the employer has not already scheduled a meal or rest period within the requirements of the law. The bill would require an employer to only pay one additional hour of pay for each day that the employer fails to notify the employee of the employee’s right to take a break or requires an employee to work without a meal or rest period.

2. Senate Bill 970 (Umberg) - Primary Election Date
   Comment: This item seeks direction on SB 970, which would change the date of the statewide direct primary to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in even-numbered years in which there is no presidential primary.
3. Discuss Sending a Letter to Sacramento Requesting a Postponement on All Major Housing Bills

Comment: This item seeks direction on sending a letter to Sacramento requesting a postponement of the legislature to approve any major housing legislation due to COVID-19 with the exception of funding for affordable housing.

4. Legislative Updates

Comment: The City’s federal lobbyists will provide a verbal update to the Liaisons on legislative issues.

C. Adjournment

George Chavez, City Manager


A DETAILED LIAISON AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1014 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services.
Item B-1
TO: City Council Liaison/Legislative/Lobby Committee
FROM: Cynthia Owens, Policy and Management Analyst
DATE: August 12, 2020
SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 1492 (Boerner Horvath) - Employment: Telecommuting Act
ATTACHMENTS: 1. Summary Memo – AB 1492
               2. Bill Text – AB 1492

The City Council has historically taken positions on proposed federal and state legislation of interest to Beverly Hills because of the City’s location, economy, programs, and policies through the adoption of a Legislative Platform.

Assembly Bill 1492 (Boerner Horvath) - Employment: Telecommuting Act (AB 1492) involves a policy matter that is not specifically addressed within the adopted Legislative Platform language. This item is being brought forward to the Committee for review at the request of Councilmember Mirisch.

The City’s state lobbyist, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, provided a summary memo for AB 1492 to the City (Attachment 1) and will provide a verbal update to the City Council Liaison/Legislative/Lobby Committee.

After discussion of AB 1492, the Liaisons may recommend the following actions:

1) Support AB 1492;
2) Support if amended AB 1492;
3) Oppose AB 1492;
4) Oppose unless amended AB 1492;
5) Remain neutral; or
6) Provide other direction to City staff.

Should the Committee recommend the City take a position on AB 1492, then staff will place the item on a future City Council Agenda for concurrence.
Attachment 1
July 22, 2020

To: Cindy Owens, City of Beverly Hills

From: Andrew K. Antwih, Partner, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Priscilla Quiroz, Legislative Advocate, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Tim Sullivan, Legislative Aide, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Re: AB 1492 (Boerner Horvath) Employment: Telecommuting Act

Earlier Versions of AB 1492
As introduced on February 22, 2019, AB 1492 (Boerner Horvath) included provisions that would have authorized local jurisdictions to establish a speed limit of 15 miles per hour if they followed certain steps.

AB 1492 was amended in the Assembly on April 4, 2019 to narrow these speed limit provisions to the City of Encinitas.

AB 1492 was then amended in the Senate on June 12, 2019 to delete all of the prior contents related to speed limits and insert new language regarding the construction of a road at San Onofre State Beach.

AB 1492 was amended again in the Senate on June 29, 2020 to delete all of the prior contents related to San Onofre State Beach and insert new language regarding the current topic of this bill: Employment and the Telecommuting Act.

Current Version of AB 1492
As amended on July 23, 2020, AB 1492 would authorize any nonexempt employee working from home who is not under the physical control of their employer to choose when to take any meal or rest period during the workday. Specifically, this bill would:

- Require an employer to pay any nonexempt employee one additional hour of pay for each day that the employer fails to notify the employee of the employee’s right to take a break or in situations when the employer requires an employee to work without a meal or rest period.
- Require and employer to compensate an employee who works from home for equipment necessary for the execution of their job duties, unless the equipment is provided by the employer;
- Require employers to compensate an employee that is working from home for a reasonable percentage of the employee’s monthly internet and telephone costs when necessary for the performance of their work duties, unless the employer fully covers those expenses;
- Authorize an employer to provide an employee, in lieu of reimbursement, with a monthly voucher in the amount of the employee’s reasonable estimate of their reimbursable
expenses and require an employee to provide documentation to support their estimate of reimbursable expenses or request for compensation;

- Prohibit an employer from retaliating against an employee who seeks reimbursement or indemnification for the allowable expenses;
- Authorize an employee working from home to receive legally required notices and postings electronically and sign certain documents electronically.

**Background**
Current law requires employees to take their breaks at certain times depending on how many hours they work. Current law also requires employers to indemnify an employee for all necessary expenditures to do their job. However, statute does not specify what expenses can be reimbursed.

The author argues that current law has not kept pace with the flexibility that technology allows employees and fails to distinguish an employee working remotely from an employee working at the employer’s place of business. As a result, there has been confusion for both employers and employees about how certain labor laws apply to workers who telecommute.

The author also points out current law requires employers to make rest periods and meal breaks available and requires breaks only at certain times; however, current law is unclear on how breaks should be taken when an employee is not located at the employer’s place of business. These requirements are difficult to enforce and fail to provide employees with the flexibility to tend to personal needs or family responsibilities. This is particularly challenging for working parents during COVID-19 as schools remain closed and children need care while distance learning.

Supporters, including the California Chamber of Commerce, argue current law requirements regarding workplace postings also fail to differentiate between digital postings and physical postings when employees work from home. This means that these notices would need to be posted in the employee’s home if the worker is telecommuting. Existing law also requires the usage of physical signatures for certain employment-related documents, which unnecessarily requires an employee to go into a workplace during a pandemic.

Note: The League of California Cities currently has a Watch position on AB 1492.

**Status of Legislation**
This bill is scheduled hearing in the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on Tuesday, August 11.

**Support and Opposition**
According to information provided by the author’s office, AB 1492 is sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce and is opposed by several trade unions listed below.

**Support**
California Chamber of Commerce (Sponsor)
California State Council of Society for Human Resource Management

**Opposition**
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union
California Conference of Machinists
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Labor Federation
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
Consumer Attorneys of California
Engineers & Scientists of California, IFPTE, Local 20
Inlandboatmen’s Union
Professional & Technical Engineers, IFPTE Local 21
SEIU California
Transport Workers Union
UNITE HERE
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council
Utility Workers Union of America
Attachment 2
An act to add Section 2802.2 to, and to add Part 4.6 (commencing with Section 1460) to Division 2 of, the Labor Code, relating to employment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST


Existing law regulates the wages, hours, and working conditions of any worker employed in any occupation, trade, or industry, whether compensation is measured by time, piece, or otherwise, except as specified.

This bill, among other things, would authorize any nonexempt employee working from home who is not under the physical control of the employer to choose when to take any meal or rest period during the workday, if the employer has not already scheduled a meal or rest period within the requirements of the law. The bill would require an employer to only pay one additional hour of pay for each day that the employer fails to notify the employee of the employee’s right to take a break or requires an employee to work without a meal or rest

February 22, 2019
period. The bill would also authorize an employee working from home to receive legally required notices and postings electronically and sign certain documents electronically.

Existing law requires an employer to indemnify an employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties, or of their obedience to the directions of the employer.

This bill would require an employer, unless the employer provides the equipment, to reimburse or indemnify an employee working from home for all physical equipment in the home reasonably necessary to perform the employee’s work duties, including, but not limited to, a computer, a printer, and a scanner. The bill would require an employer to reimburse or indemnify an employee who works from home for a reasonable percentage of the employee’s monthly internet, telephone, and energy costs to the extent those costs are necessary for performance of their work duties, as provided. The bill would prohibit an employer from retaliating against an employee who seeks reimbursement or indemnification for the allowable expenses.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Telecommuting Act.

SEC. 2. Part 4.6 (commencing with Section 1460) is added to Division 2 of the Labor Code, to read:

PART 4.6. TELECOMMUTING EMPLOYEES

1460. (a) Notwithstanding Section 512, any nonexempt employee who works from home and is not under the physical control of the employer may choose when to take any meal period or rest period during the workday, if the employer has not already scheduled a meal or rest period within the requirements of the law. An employer shall notify the employee of the employee’s right to take a meal or rest period as provided by Section 512 of the Labor Code and wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission.
(b) An employer shall only pay one additional hour of pay pursuant to Section 226.7 if for each day that the employer fails to notify the employee who works from home of the employee’s right to take a meal or rest period under this code or wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, or requires an employee to work without a meal or rest period.

(c) An employer shall not retaliate against any employee who exercises any rights pursuant to this section.

(d) Except for the timing of when meal periods and rest periods occur as set forth in subdivision (a), this section does not supersede the responsibility of employers to relieve their employees of all duty, to relinquish control over their activities, to permit them a reasonable opportunity to take uninterrupted breaks, and to not impede or discourage them from doing so, as set forth in Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1040.

1461. (a) Any employee who works from home and is not at the physical location of the employer may receive all required notices and postings under this code electronically.

(b) Any employee who works from home and is not at the physical location of the employer may utilize an electronic signature for any employment-related documents that require acknowledgment of receipt or attestation.

SEC. 3. Section 2802.2 is added to the Labor Code, to read:

2802.2. (a) An employer shall indemnify an employee who works from home for all physical equipment in the home reasonably necessary to perform the employee’s work duties, including, but not limited to, a computer, a printer, and a scanner, unless the equipment is provided by the employer. An employer may establish procedures that require the prior approval of an equipment purchase by an employee, unless the need for the equipment is unforeseeable and is required to be purchased immediately to perform the work duties.

(b) An employer shall indemnify an employee who works from home for a reasonable percentage of the employee’s monthly internet, telephone, and energy costs to the extent those costs are necessary for performance of their work duties, as estimated by the employee, unless the employer already fully covers those expenses.

(c) In lieu of reimbursing or indemnifying an employee for the exact costs, an employer may provide the employee with a monthly
voucher the amount of which is based upon an employee’s reasonable estimate of the reimbursable expenses provided for pursuant to this section.

(d) An employer may require an employee to provide documentation to support the employee’s reasonable estimate of reimbursable expenses or request for indemnification.

(e) An employer shall not retaliate against an employee who seeks reimbursement or indemnification of any expenses pursuant to this section.

(f) This section does not supersede any employee rights provided under Section 2802 of the Labor Code.
Item B-2
TO: City Council Liaison/Legislative/Lobby Committee
FROM: Cynthia Owens, Policy and Management Analyst
DATE: August 12, 2020
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 970 (Umberg) - Primary Election Date
ATTACHMENTS: 1. SB 970 Letter
                2. Bill Text – SB 970

INTRODUCTION
The City Council has historically taken positions on proposed federal and state legislation of interest to Beverly Hills because of the City’s location, economy, programs, and policies through the adoption of a Legislative Platform.

Senate Bill 970 (Umberg) - Primary Election Date (“SB 970”) involves a policy matter that is not specifically addressed within the adopted Legislative Platform language. However, given the impact this item will have on the City’s election of three City Council seats in 2022, this item is being submitted to the Committee for review and concurrence of a position letter sent by the City Manager, George Chavez on August 9, 2020.

PREVIOUS VERSION OF SB 970
SB 970 was introduced in February 2020 to make minor changes to the affidavit of registration for voters. The bill was rewritten to replace his/her and he/she pronouns with either affiant or person(s). Additionally, it allowed a person to use their California Identification Card number on the affidavit in lieu of a California State Driver’s License.

CURRENT VERSION OF SB 970
As amended on May 29, 2020, this bill would change the date of the statewide direct primary to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, in even-numbered years in which there is no presidential primary.

According to the author, this bill is necessary to allow the Citizens Redistricting Commission (“CRC”) and local redistricting commissions sufficient time to complete their work after receiving the necessary census data now anticipated to be months later than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The author also notes this bill will shorten the length of the gubernatorial election cycle, which is currently eight months.

In June, the California State Legislature filed an emergency petition with the state Supreme Court regarding relevant deadlines for the 2021 redistricting process. Due to the delay in the
completion of the census, and the delay in the release of census data to the state from April 1 to July 31, 2021, the petition contends the CRC cannot draw maps to satisfy state and federal law until it has the census data in a form it can use to redistrict the state. The Legislature requested an order extending relevant deadlines by up to four months to account for the delay and requested an expedited ruling.

On July 17, 2020, the court granted the Legislature’s petition and issued a peremptory writ of mandate adjusting the relevant deadlines in accordance with the forecasted delay in the release of the census data necessary to draw the new district maps.

Groups supporting the bill, such as Common Cause, California Professional Firefighters and the League of Women Voters, favor shortening the gubernatorial election cycle and are concerned that without changing the 2022 primary date, the late availability of census data will result in rushed or deficient redistricting that will endure for 10 years.

Others, such as Secretary of State Alex Padilla, support changing the 2022 primary date if census data is late; however, Secretary Padilla is concerned that changing all gubernatorial primaries to June will confuse voters who every two years will be primary voting in different months. Secretary Padilla contends resources would be better used to educate voters about issues on the ballot than about the ever changing date of the primary.

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS – ISSUE WITH SB 970**

Senate Bill 415 (Hueso) – California Voter Participation Act (“SB 415”) was passed by the state legislature in 2015 and became law on January 1, 2016. SB 415 intent was to increase voter participation in local elections by requiring cities to align their elections with either the state primary elections or the general election in November of even numbered years.

Senate Bill 568 (Lara) - Primary Elections: Election Date (“SB 568”) was signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2017. This bill changed the State’s primary election date to March in even numbered years.

The City of Beverly Hills, and other cities, then adjusted their election date to conform with SB 415 and SB 568. Prior to these two bills, Beverly Hills held elections March of odd-numbered years. In order to consolidate the City’s election with the two state laws, the City of Beverly Hills, and other cities, extended the term of city council members by one year. Under the state elections code one year is the maximum that cities can adjust the term of council members when changing their elections.

Now, the state legislature is considering SB 970, which would change the state primary election, in even-numbered years not divisible by four, to June. As noted above, the author is seeking this change due to the impacts COVID-19 had on completing the US Census in a timely manner.

However, Beverly Hills has no ability to adjust its council term to conform to a June 2022 election as the City already adjusted its City Council terms by 12 months. Furthermore, there is no earlier date on which the City is allowed to conduct a City Council election pursuant to SB 415.
As a consequence, with three council members up for election, the City of Beverly Hills, and at least one other city, arguably will not have a quorum of the city council between March and June.

**CITY ACTION**

On August 9, 2020, the City Manager, at the direction of the Mayor, conveyed a City position of support unless amended on SB 970. This action requires ratification by the City Council. As such, this item will be presented to the City Council on August 18, 2020.

Staff is bringing this item to the Legislative/Lobby Liaison Committee for a recommendation to include in the August 18 Staff Report.
George Chavez, City Manager

August 9, 2020

The Honorable Tom Umberg
California State Senate, 34th District
State Capitol, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 970 (Umberg) - Primary election date
City of Beverly Hills - Support if Amended

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our City’s Support If Amended position on SB 970, your measure that would change the date of the statewide direct primary to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, in even-numbered, non-presidential primary years. We request that you amend SB 970 to allow cities to extend their City Council terms beyond the current 12-month statutory limit until the June 2022 election can be certified and the installation of the elected officials can occur. Arguably, without this amendment, the City of Beverly Hills will lack a quorum of its City Council beginning in March 2022 as the City is unable to extend the term the three current City Councilmembers who are up for reelection.

In 2015, the Legislature passed SB 415 (Hueso) the “California Voter Participation Rights Act,” which required cities to align their elections with statewide election dates. Subsequently, in 2017, the Legislature passed SB 568 (Lara), which changed the State’s primary election date to March.

Prior to SB 415 and SB 568, the City of Beverly Hills conducted elections in odd numbered years. In order to conform to SB 415 and SB 568, the City of Beverly Hills extended the terms of the City Council by one year, the maximum allowed under state law. The first election to conform to the change enacted by these two bills was in March 2020 for two of the five City Council seats. The next election for the remaining three seats will take place in March 2022.
SB 970 would change the date of the state’s primary election, in years not divisible by four, to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June. As Beverly Hills has already extended the term of its City Councilmembers by the maximum allowed under state statute, the City is requesting SB 970 be amended to add the following:

Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Elections Code section 10403.5, any term of office set to expire in March or April 2022 may be extended to expire in June 2022 following the certification of election results and administration of oath of office to the newly elected office holder.

If SB 970 becomes law without this amendment, arguably the City of Beverly Hills would not have the authority to adjust its council terms to conform to such a change. The City has exhausted its authority under current law to extend local City Council terms and there is no earlier date on which the City would be allowed to hold a City Council election pursuant to current law (as enacted by SB 415).

The City of Beverly Hills is not the only city in Los Angeles County or the state that is faced with this situation. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills respectfully requests SB 970 be amended to address this issue by providing cities a one-time exemption from the 12-month rule so they may change their election date from March to June in order to conform with the new election timeline proposed by SB 970 (Umberg). With this amendment, the City of Beverly Hills would be in full Support of SB 970.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

George Chavez
City Manager, City of Beverly Hills

cc:  Members and Consultants, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
     Members and staff, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
     Members and staff, Assembly Appropriations Committee
     The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
     The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
     Mayor and City Councilmembers, City of Beverly Hills
     Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Attachment 2
An act to amend Sections 316, 340, 1000, 1001, 1201, and 1202 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 970, as amended, Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments. Umberg. Primary election date.

Existing law requires that the statewide direct primary be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in each even-numbered year. Existing law requires that the presidential primary be held on that same date in any year that is evenly divisible by 4.

This bill would change the date of the statewide direct primary to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in even-numbered years in which there is no presidential primary.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
(a) California voters approved the Voters FIRST Act in 2008 and the Voters FIRST Act for Congress in 2010, which together established the Citizens Redistricting Commission and made the commission responsible for adjusting the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senatorial, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts based on the federal decennial census and in conformity with standards set forth in both the federal and state constitutions.
(b) The commission is required to conduct an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines. That process includes holding public hearings both before and after releasing draft and final plans and providing adequate public comment periods after any plans are released.
(c) The commission cannot draw new district lines until it receives census data from the United States Census Bureau. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Census Bureau has announced that release of census data to California will be delayed up to four months to July 31, 2021. As a result, the commission will not have sufficient time to undertake the redistricting process as required by the Voters FIRST Act and the Voters FIRST Act for Congress and to approve new district boundaries that will be in place in time for a statewide direct primary election held in March 2022. Therefore, the Legislature finds that the 2022 statewide direct primary election must be moved back to June 7, 2022.

SECTION 2.
SEC. 2. Section 316 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
316. “Direct primary” is the primary election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in each even-numbered year that is not evenly divisible by four and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in each even-numbered year that is evenly divisible by four.

SEC. 3.
SEC. 3. Section 340 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
340. "Presidential primary" is the primary election that is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of any year that is evenly divisible by four.

SEC. 4. Section 1000 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
1000. The established election dates are as follows:
(a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each even-numbered year that is evenly divisible by four.
(b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year.
(c) The second Tuesday of April in each even-numbered year.
(d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in each even-numbered year that is not evenly divisible by four.
(e) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year.

SEC. 5. Section 1001 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
1001. The following are statewide elections and their dates are statewide election dates:
(a) An election held in November of an even-numbered year.
(b) An election held in June of an even-numbered year that is not evenly divisible by four and in March of each even-numbered year that is evenly divisible by four.

SEC. 6. Section 1201 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
1201. The statewide direct primary shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of each even-numbered year that is not evenly divisible by four and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in each even-numbered year that is evenly divisible by four.

SEC. 7. Section 1202 of the Elections Code is amended to read:
1202. The presidential primary shall be consolidated with the statewide direct primary in any year that is evenly divisible by four, and the consolidated primary shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.
Item B-3
Due to COVID-19 closing the Assembly and State Senate for an extended length of time, the state legislature announced in May the focus of the remainder of the legislative session would primarily be on bills addressing COVID-19, affordable housing, homelessness, and wildfires.

Councilmember Mirisch has requested the Committee discuss sending a letter to Sacramento asking the legislature to delay passing or implementing any major housing bills unless it is to provide funding for affordable housing projects.

Should there be concurrence from the Committee to send a letter then this item will be placed on a future City Council meeting for approval of that direction.
Item B-4
Verbal updates on legislative issues will be presented by the City’s lobbyists.