

LEGISLATIVE ALERT XIII
79TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Week 14 of the 79th Legislative Session begins Monday May 8! Only a few weeks remain with lots of business yet to be done in Carson City. Lawmakers started their early evening meetings with even a Saturday meeting to be held May 6.

Two bills that RPEN has been tracking were heard again Wednesday, May 3, which coincidentally fell on RPEN Day at the Nevada Legislature. Senate Bill 384, RPEN's privacy bill that looks to spell out what is and is not public information relating to retired public employees, went before the Assembly Government Affairs Committee where there were a lot of questions. The bill passed out of the Senate along party lines, and we expect similar action in the Assembly. The bill is sponsored by Senator Julia Ratti of Sparks. She sat at the table alongside RPEN's lead lobbyist Marlene Lockard as the two explained the reasoning behind the bill. This issue first arose during the 2015 session on the heels of a lawsuit against the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) from Reno Newspapers (dba Reno Gazette Journal) that went all the way to the Supreme Court. The next step for SB 384 is a work session and vote by the Committee before it goes to the Assembly floor. The other bill we are following deals with the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) as well as Nevada Deferred Comp. SB 502 has morphed from a bill we originally opposed, to a bill we now support thanks to many amendments that arose from many meetings between the bill sponsor, PEBP Board Chair Patrick Cates and RPEN's Lead Lobbyist Marlene Lockard along with a couple of other public employee representatives from other organizations within our coalition. SB 502 was considered by the Senate Finance Committee May 3, at 6:30 p.m. and while no action was taken, it will be expected back for a work session and vote to send it back to the Senate Floor before being voted on there and sent to the Assembly. No further dates are scheduled as of this alert however, for SB 384 OR SB 502.

Another Senate bill mentioned in a previous Legislative Alert was SB 356. It looks to roll back some changes made during the 2015 Legislative Session dealing with

collective bargaining. It passed in the Senate along party lines in April, and also has a fiscal note attached. No hearings have been set in the Assembly as of today.

The next deadline for legislators is May 19 for committee passage in the second house.

Although many of our members have already left remarks at the “Share your Opinion” page at the Nevada Legislative website, feel free to change your remarks left earlier for SB 80 or SB 502 as introduced (and originally opposed), to let lawmakers know that you can support the amended version of SB 502 because it leaves both of the retiree representatives on the PEBP Board and also leaves PEBP as a governing agency rather advisory. The link to that website remains the same: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/79th2017/A/> or you can still contact your state representatives through a phone call at (775)-684-6827 in Northern Nevada or (702)-486-2626 in Southern Nevada; email; in-person visit when possible or a personal letter. They already know that numbers count, but it never hurts to remind them! And if you don’t know who your representative is, there is a place at the Nevada Legislative web-site for that too! Go to the homepage, <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/> and then click on “Who’s My Legislator, What’s My District” along the right side of the homepage. In that same vicinity there is another spot to click on that takes you to all Contact Information for **ALL** Senators and Assembly Representatives.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our members who have “shared” an opinion, visited a Legislative Hearing due to our “call to action” and came out Wednesday May 3 to support RPEN Day the Nevada Legislature. A lot of work remains to be done in Carson City, and during these last few weeks, your State Staff in Carson City will be there, just as we have been since February 6. Our Lead Lobbyist Marlene Lockard has been doing a fabulous job, and we also want to thank those in our public employee coalition for coming together as we have done this session, and many sessions before. This cooperation is what makes things happen! So again, thanks to one and all!

Terri Laird, Executive Director