

## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT I**

### **79<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

The session began Monday, February 6, with the usual pomp and circumstance honoring the families of each legislator during floor sessions that got down to business once the tradition of introducing guests was concluded.

More than 100 bills (most were pre-filed) were read on the floor of both houses, among them two that RPEN will be following very closely as the session progresses. Assembly Bill 71 comes from Nevada State Controller Ron Knecht and seeks to introduce a new 401K/Hybrid Pension Plan to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) similar to a bill, AB 190, that was put forth during the 2015 legislative session by former Reno Assemblyman Randy Kirner and successfully rejected by lawmakers thanks to input from RPEN and the public employee coalition we work alongside at the legislature. We are already on the record as being opposed to AB 71 as well. Another bill on the Senate side, SB 80, seeks to move the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) along with the Nevada Deferred Compensation Program from being stand-alone agencies to the Department of Administration led by current PEBP Board Chair Patrick Cates. RPEN is also against this bill. There are no current hearings scheduled as yet on either bill but RPEN will be alerting our members when those hearings are up so we can once again turn our members out in force to show our displeasure. Until then, however, we do encourage you to sign in to the "Share Your Opinion" page at the Nevada Legislative website at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/79th2017/A/>

During the 2015 session the number one commented on bill was AB 190!

Other issues we will be closely involved with include a bill introduced in 2015 by the late Sparks State Senator Debbie Smith, at the request of RPEN that sought to strengthen laws protecting personal information of public employees in light of increased identity theft and cyber-crimes. Senator Julia Ratti has agreed to champion that bill forward this session, which is a good thing because of the latest lawsuit filed against NV PERS by the Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI). That court case was heard January 17 before District Judge James Wilson who ruled in favor of NPRI January 24, and the PERS Board agreed January 31 to appeal the ruling.

There are other issues we will be following as well and we will keep you posted on a weekly basis as we have done during past Legislative Sessions. RPEN is well represented at the session by our well respected Lead Lobbyist/Legislative Advocate Marlene Lockard, who will be assisted by our State President Jack Harris (SP) and Executive Director Terri Laird.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of RPEN, and if you know of someone who is not yet a member of RPEN, please encourage them to join now! Strength in Numbers is never more important than during a legislative session!

Terri Laird, Executive Director