

LEGISLATIVE ALERT II

79TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

The session entered its second week February 13. RPEN's public employee coalition also held their second meeting during this session on Tuesday, February 14. This group, established many, many years ago, meets regularly during the legislative session to discuss issues of joint concern. Among the bills the group is concerned with this year is Assembly Bill 71, Senate Bill 80, and a few others, including a couple of Bill Draft Requests that recently came to light as sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Michael Roberson. BDR's generally consist of just a sentence or two but Roberson's BDR's, 842 and 843, while very vague, include the following language: 842: revises provisions governing the Public Employees' Retirement Board and 843: establishes a hybrid public employees' retirement program that includes a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan for new hires. BDR 843 is quite similar to AB 190 that was considered during the 2015 legislative session and introduced then by former Reno Assemblyman Randy Kirner. Thankfully, AB 190 never got out of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, following a successful fight against it by RPEN and our public employee coalition.

As of Friday, February 17, 2017, there are currently 229 bills being considered by the Nevada Assembly and 201 in the Senate and a total of 932 Bill Draft Requests. No hearings on the bills we are most concerned with, AB 71 and SB 80 (which would move the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) and Deferred Comp to the Department of Administration) have been scheduled as of the second week.

Until then, however, we are still encouraging our members 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/>

You are also encouraged to reach out to your legislators to voice your concerns about any negative changes and/or reforms to Nevada PERS that could negatively impact your pension. If you don't know who your legislator is, or what district you live in, there is another link at the Nevada Legislative web-site that can help you. <http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>

RPEN representatives testified at a couple of hearings this week. One, before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services February 15, was in support of dismissing a sunset clause for the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, where we cited statistics that 1 in 9 Nevadans suffer from Alzheimer's disease or some other form of dementia. The Task Force was created in 2013 and was set to expire June 30 of this year. We also spoke Thursday, February 16, during an Assembly Ways and Means Committee hearing where PERS Executive Officer Tina Leiss made a budget presentation.

Highlights for week 3, that begins Monday, February 20 will include another budget presentation from Damon Haycock, Executive Officer at PEBP, on Wednesday, February 22 at 8am before a joint meeting of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means, in Room 2134, with a video conference in Room 4412 at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas at 555 East Washington Ave.

Terri Laird, Executive Director