

**LEGISLATIVE ALERT VII**  
**79<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017**

Week eight of the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session starts today (Monday) with another long day as another deadline looms. Lawmakers have until the end of business today to introduce any bills coming out of committees, although those bills with a fiscal note attached are always exempt from all deadlines. Additionally, lawmakers often change language to suit their needs as the session rolls on to toward its intended end of Monday, June 5 at midnight.

RPEN's privacy bill made it out of the last deadline, a week ago, when on March 20 Sparks Senator Julia Ratti introduced Senate Bill 384. This bill got its original start during the 2015 session when the late Senator Debbie Smith introduced a similar bill that died without ever receiving a hearing due to the make-up of the legislature then. Lobbyists for RPEN approached Senator Ratti requesting she carry the bill again. This bill is designed to change privacy language within current statutes to clear up the confusion as to what is private and confidential and what is not. RPEN is, and has always been very concerned about certain information being released that could lead to identity theft which Nevada ranks quite high in nationwide. So high, in fact, that Governor Sandoval has proposed putting a "Cybercrime" task force together during the 2017 legislative session. SB 384 is scheduled to be heard Friday, March 31, by the Senate Government Affairs Committee. We are hoping to pack hearing rooms in Carson City as well as in Las Vegas at the Grant Sawyer Building. RPEN has put out the "call to action" among all 18 chapters statewide for those members able and willing to show up at the Legislative Building in Carson City in Room 2135 on Friday, March 31 at 1:30 p.m. or in Room 4404B at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas. As you know, there is strength in numbers! Legislators pay more attention when they see large groups of retired public employees in the audience!

Another bill RPEN hopes will come forth at some point today deals with the so-called "orphan" issue at the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP). This dwindling group of non-state retiree participants of PEBP have faced ever escalating health care insurance premiums because of their small numbers, said to be less than 17-hundred. This issue has been debated at several legislative

sessions in recent years and we are hoping a bill will alleviate this problem, based on the best option of seven presented during a recent PEBP budget presentation at the legislature. More to come, hopefully, on that later!

Meanwhile the other bills RPEN is following have still not had any hearings scheduled. They include Assembly Bill 71 and Senate Bill 297, both of which have very similar language to add a new 401K/Hybrid Pension Plan to the Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). Also on the Senate side is SB 80 which calls for moving PEBP from its current independent status to advisory status within the Dept. of Administration and SB 217 which calls for adding members from the private sector to sit on the PERS Retirement Board. RPEN opposes AB 71, SB 297, SB 80 and AB 71.

In other news from the week ending March 24, the PEBP Board met March 23 and approved of a 2-year budget that is quite different than the preliminary budget that was passed earlier this year. It is good news for retirees in PEBP and the Medicare Exchange because the new budget eliminated the implementation of fees associated with retirees' life insurance and HRA administrative fees. PEBP was originally going to charge close to \$6.00 per month for those two fees! Additional reserves were realized from an end of year audit from PEBP's actuary and the funds were spread amongst ALL PEBP participants, actives and retirees. The legislature will be approving the PEBP, and PERS budgets later in the session.

There is still plenty of time to register an opinion on any of the bills mentioned in this report. If you want to register an opinion on any of the bills mentioned in this alert, log into the Nevada Legislative website at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/79th2017/A/> or contact your state representatives one-on-one either through in-person contact, email, phone call or letters or even Twitters (!) to let them know how you feel!

And maybe we will see you Friday, March 31, at the Senate Government Affairs Committee meeting!

Terri Laird, Executive Director