

LEGISLATIVE ALERT VIII
79TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

The 7th week of the current Legislative Session in Carson City wrapped up with a long hearing before Senate Government Affairs Friday, March 31, that included a very important bill for RPEN, the Retired Public Employees of Nevada.

Senate Bill 384, brought forth by Sparks Senator Julia Ratti for RPEN, seeks to clarify language in Nevada Statutes as to what is, and is NOT public information as it relates to identifying information relating to ALL public employees, retired and active. Nearly 40+ members of RPEN attended the hearing, both in Carson City as well as at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas where a video-conference was held. RPEN's Lead Lobbyist Marlene Lockard joined Senator Ratti at the table to give a brief history of the bill and its' importance to public employees. Lockard cited increasing rates of identity theft and its' impact on seniors. This bill seeks to block the name, address, beneficiary and other personal identifying information. It's thought that putting this information out there will only lead to increased threats to an already vulnerable group. Several witnesses testified in favor of the bill, while only two voiced opposition. One witness, Barry Smith from the Nevada Press Association testified in a neutral position saying it was never their intent to put anyone at risk of ID theft. Recent lawsuits against the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (PERS) led to discussion of making public records law clearer as to what is and is not public information. The next step for SB 384 is a work session, followed by a vote by the full Senate before the bill can be heard by the Assembly. Once it reaches the Assembly RPEN will seek, once again, to pack the hearing rooms with our members who are willing, and able to attend, so stay tuned for that in the weeks to come!

Other bills RPEN is following 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). RPEN is opposed to AB 71 AND SB 297. Another bill involving PERS is SB 217 that would place a member from the private sector on the PERS Retirement Board. We are opposed to SB 217. Another Senate Bill is SB 502 (formerly known as SB 80) which calls for moving PEBP from its current independent status to advisory status within the

Dept. of Administration as well as altering the number of representatives on the PEBP Board. RPEN also opposes SB 502.

It's also worth noting in this report that RPEN is not only testifying on bills involving impacts to PERS and PEBP. We have testified in favor of other bills relating to programs with positive impacts relating to Alzheimer's disease as well as guardianship abuses.

The PEBP Board is scheduled to meet Thursday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m. at their boardroom in the Richard Bryan Building, 901 S. Stewart Ave. It will be a Legislative update meeting, one of two scheduled in April.

The next deadline ahead for the full Legislature is April 14 when bills must pass out of their committee of origin. Budget closings will also begin this week as the Legislature reaches the halfway point before an anticipated June 5 sine die.

Keep in mind though, 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!

Terri Laird, Executive Director