

LEGISLATIVE ALERT XIV
79TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

What a week it's been!

As of Monday, May 15, crunch time officially arrives in the halls of the Nevada State Legislative Building with only three full weeks remaining.

The two main bills we've been discussing to date, Senate Bill 384 and Senate Bill 502 were do-passed out of Committee this week. SB 384 awaits a vote in the full Assembly and SB 502 goes next to the Senate Floor. Neither is on any calendar as yet for that to happen however, and there were no floor sessions today (Friday) in either house.

There also continues to be negative stories running against SB 384 from the Las Vegas Review Journal and the Nevada Policy Research Institute. The vote May 3, to do pass the bill to the Assembly floor was again along party lines, with 4 Assembly members in Government Affairs voting against it, including Assemblymen John Ellison, Al Kramer, Jim Marchant and Richard McArthur. The vote in Senate Finance was unanimous Thursday (May 11). SB 384 is RPEN's privacy bill that looks to spell out what is and is not public information relating to retired public employees.

SB 502, as you already know, deals with the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) and Nevada's Deferred Comp Program. Passed as amended, with lots of negotiating between the sponsor and representatives from RPEN and other public employee groups, to reach something we could agree with.

Meanwhile, the PEBP and Deferred Comp budgets were closed this week, and included in the PEBP budget was a four year plan to provide financial relief to those non-state PEBP participants (often referred to as orphans) who've faced escalating health care costs since 2007 because of the isolated, dwindling pool of participants in that group.

As we mentioned early in the session, RPEN through our Lead Lobbyist Marlene Lockard, has been tracking many bills (over 20) that deal with many senior issues, like elder abuse, identity theft, and other miscellaneous health care issues.

Additionally, through our public employee coalition, we have also offered our supportive testimony for other issues that impact actives, who are still working, on such issues as collective bargaining, which has been the focus of several bills looking to roll back bills from 2015 that had unintended consequences. Among those collective bargaining bills the following were heard this week; AB 271, SB 469, SB 182 and SB 356.

As mentioned last week, the next deadline for legislators is May 19 for committee passage in the second house.

The link to the “Share Your Opinion” page at the Legislature is still open and can be accessed by clicking <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. 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 Contact Information for **ALL** Senators and Assembly Representatives.

In closing this week’s alert, we must look back and remember the hard work that led to the joint committees agreeing to add money to the PEBP budget to assist those “orphans” who have been isolated for so long, many taking on part-time jobs to help cover their healthcare after they retired. We thank our former Executive Director Marty Bibb, who testified often before the Legislature as well as in front of the PEBP Boards past and present, seeking a solution to this issue. And now, it appears to be here, and there are too many people to thank for getting us to this point. But it’s important to look back, and remember where this organization has been, and look ahead at where we need to go. Our goal since 1976 remains the same. RPEN fights for your pension and healthcare benefits. We can’t always win every battle, but we certainly have always fought the good fight. And every once in a while, after all is said and done, it does pay off.

Terri Laird, Executive Director