

LEGISLATIVE ALERT XV
79TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

Another week, another deadline has come and gone with another deadline ahead on May 26!

The week beginning Monday, May 22, will see another hearing process begin for a bill RPEN has been following, Senate Bill 502, as it is scheduled to be heard for the first time by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee on May 24th at 9:00 a.m. SB 502 looks to move the Nevada Deferred Compensation Program to the Department of Administration, as well as make improvements to the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) Board. RPEN worked closely with PEBP Board Chair Patrick Cates to make those improvements leading to our being able to support the bill as amended, when we originally opposed it as it was initially introduced. The hearing May 24th will be in Room 4100 at the Legislative Building in Carson City and in Room 4606 of the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas.

The news isn't quite as good for another important bill for RPEN. SB 384 was set to be heard on the Assembly Floor this week, however, it landed on the Chief Clerk's desk instead. We had heard earlier this week that the bill was heading for a partisan vote, similar to what happened on the Senate Floor earlier. It has been reported that the Governor may be considering a veto on certain partisan bills, so a decision was made to move the bill to the clerk's desk while efforts to work on possible amendments to the bill can be considered. This all occurred after RPEN, through our Lead Lobbyist, State Office and State President, blitzed every member of the Assembly to make it a non-partisan effort. Several members of our public employees' coalition did the same. SB 384 looks to add clarity to the state laws governing what is, and is not public information relating to retired public employees. We hope to have better news to report on SB 384 before the next deadline, May 26, when bills must achieve Second House Passage.

Meanwhile, the Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) budget was approved without incident, and closed this week.

One bill that hasn't had a hearing yet, with a little over two weeks left, is the controversial Senate Bill 506 that revises provisions relating to education savings

accounts and education funding. This is **THE** hot potato of the session and will likely take up much of the final days of the session if and/or when, it finally begins the process.

Until then, though, 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.

Sine die is so close, and yet, so far away still. So much work is left to be done. We remain vigilant with regard to SB 384. The effort to pass this legislation was begun during the 2015 Legislative Session and we hope to get something passed during this Session that the Governor will sign. There has been so much effort put into it thus far and we thank Senator Julia Ratti (SD 13) for agreeing to sponsor the legislation for us. It hasn’t been easy for her, as she has taken a lot of heat from public employee detractors for her efforts.

If you would like to offer your own thanks to Senator Ratti, she can be reached through her legislative email address Julia.Ratti@sen.state.nv.us or leave her a voicemail at 775-684-1429.

Terri Laird, Executive Director