

Legislative Update April 19- May 25 2019

Hello to AFSCME Retirees-the end of the 2019 80th Nevada Legislative Session is near. We had some surprises and one tragic loss over the last few weeks when a much-beloved Assembly member, Tyrone Thompson, passed away unexpectedly after falling ill while serving Nevada in the legislature on May 4th. The 80th legislature has pressed on and has navigated the bill deadlines that are set by the rules. These rules and deadlines reduce the actual number of bills that actually become law. Close to 400 hundred bills have “died” so far. Friday May 24th was “Second House” passage which means that bills that survived have passed out of both houses and moved on towards final votes on the floor of the Assembly or Senate.

HOWEVER-(and there’s always a “However”) there are exceptions to these deadlines rules. Bills that could impact the fiscal decisions of the budget process are designated as “EXEMPT” and there are approximately over 200 bills in that category. These bills are assigned to the” money committees”- Senate Finance, and Assembly Ways and Means. One of the reasons for this is that under Nevada Law, school funding bills must get passed first. Bills that are Exempt are decided last.

In the last two weeks there has been good news for not only Retirees but Nevada as well. Both the NV PERS and PEBP budgets are closed. The appropriations bill for PEBP **SB550** introduced this last Saturday and passed out of senate Finance Committee last night will show a modest contribution increase for Medicare retirees and depending on your plan, the same or flat rates for non-Medicare retirees on either the CDHP, HMO or EPO plans. Our new Governor has also signed multiple bills that we were also tracking, including important health care protection bills:

AB170 (Protections for Pre-existing Conditions and other provisions of the Affordable Care Act and Creates the “Office of Consumer Health Assistance”)

AB469 (Ending “surprise” out-of-network medically necessary emergency billing)

AB185 (Medicare-type drug pricing study).

Because things are moving so fast, this update doesn’t begin to cover all the other moving parts to the 80th Session. Our final eblast-update will be after the scheduled end “sine die” of the session-currently set for next Monday June 3rd, and your next “Senior Moment” newsletter will be devoted to a more in-depth discussion about the Session and the issues that matter most to our AFSCME 4041 Retirees!