

Weekly Update February 8, 2019

Good Morning to all our AFSCME 4041 Retiree members! The Nevada State legislature's 80th Regular Session is in full swing-despite some rocky moments during the first ceremonial legislative day of Monday February 4 due to the inclement weather:

<https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/government/legislature-opens-for-business/>

We threw on our snow-boots though and got to work! Our legislative goal for this first week of the legislature was to make contact with the sixty-three legislators' staff who will work for the next 120 days in the legislative building. It was important to have these face-to-face contacts, remind the staff of our upcoming legislative reception that we will be hosting at the Gold Dust West at the end of the month, and get them familiar with AFSCME. In the past, folks have told us that they weren't aware that AFSCME had a retirement chapter in Nevada and we are aiming to fix that this session! Within a three-day period this week, we had met the staff members of over 50 of the 63 legislators and we won't stop until we have personally introduced ourselves to everyone.

We also attended a meeting of the coalition of public employees that we mentioned in last week's update. This public coalition includes firefighters, law enforcement groups, k-12 teachers, and the Higher Ed association as well as other public employee groups. While we all support each other, it's also understood that we all report to our individual groups and are ultimately responsible for moving our individual groups' legislative goals forward.

While this week was more "settling in" and procedural in terms of actual bills and or budgets hearings there were a couple things to note. First, there were fifteen bills (11 in the Assembly and 4 in the Senate) vetoed by the former Governor in 2017 after session ended. The subjects of the bills ranged from energy standards to minimum wage. Nevada law requires that these bills be returned to this session and acted on in each house, requiring an override of former Governor Sandoval's vetoes. The Assembly Speaker has already taken a position that the 11 Assembly bills will "procedurally" die and no further action be taken. The Senate decides next Tuesday, February 12 what will happen with the 4 remaining Senate bills but we are anticipating the same outcome. Based on Speaker Jason Frierson's statements in the press, it appears that there is no appetite to re-litigate last session and at least some of those same issues will have a fresh start in the form of new bills submitted in this session.

Secondly, the AFSCME 4041 actives had their 2019 collective bargaining bill get initial approval for drafting by the Senate Government Affairs Committee and was read on the Senate Floor on Thursday February 7, 2019. The bill now goes to the Senate Government Affairs Committee for hearings. Look for updates as SB135 moves through this historic process.

Both the NV PERS and PEBP systems had brief informational overview hearings in Assembly Government Affairs this week as part of a larger series of hearings in that committee on certain Executive Branch agencies and their functions.

Again-we look forward to a great pro-worker 80th Legislative Session! As always-feel free to send us your thoughts and any questions to Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com