

## **Weekly Update April 8-15 2019**

Hello to AFSCME Retirees-as the days of the 2019 Session start winding up for the “Big Finish”, we are over the half-way mark of the 120 day calendar. The first big hurdle of the legislative calendar is over. Friday April 12 was the cut-off for passage out of house-of-origin Committee as we told you would happen. 274 bills out of the over 1000 pending bills did not make it out of committee.

Our list of bills that we are tracking got significantly whittled down too. We are finally below the “100 mark” of bills that we are following on subjects such as NV PERS, PEBP (health care), collective bargaining, elections, public records and general government administration.

We promised you a deeper dive last week into the bills possibly effecting NV PERS. During the session, the PERS Agency puts bills on meeting agendas for a vote from the PERS Board on a position (neutral/opposed/support) whenever their legal and financial analysis shows a concern that the bill’s impact could affect the integrity of the trust fund. The discussion below is taken from the list on the link to NV PERS’ last legislative update meeting agenda of April 4. The only bill not discussed below is SB135-the AFSCME collective bargaining bill-because a technical amendment has taken PERS out of the bill. This is the link to the April 4<sup>th</sup> PERS Board agenda:

<https://www.nvpers.org/public/boardBusiness/minutes/2019/0419ag-Special.pdf>

## **2019 SESSION NV PERS BILLS**

We started this session out with only two bills requesting changes to the NV PERS system. Both were pre-filed by the former state Controller (AB 75 and SB 83) and in both cases the NV PERS board which has been meeting regularly since Session started, voted to oppose those two bills. AB 75 was a rehash of the 2015 Session’s AB 190-an attempt to create a “Hybrid System” in Nevada, and SB 83 was a rehash of 2015’s AB 3-an attempt to unconstitutionally reconfigure the composition of the PERS governing board.

Some of the bills on the PERS’ agenda list have died due to the April 12<sup>th</sup> deadline and some of the bills listed below have had amendments that remove any involvement or concerns by PERS.

### **These bills were initially opposed by PERS or staff had expressed concerns:**

**AB75** This Bill (“Hybrid Plan”) is truly “dead”. It didn’t meet the deadline and we repeatedly lobbied against it, citing all the policy discussions we had during the 2015 session in discussing that year’s AB190-including the enormous fiscal note.

**AB382** This bill as written originally focused on one group/department of state employees that work in law enforcement and tied potential compensation increases to this group's PERS contributions in the Police and Fire Fund. An amendment was offered that took PERS out of the compensation scheme proposed and so staff recommended "no position" to the Board. \*\*This bill did survive the cutoff date as amended.

**AB415** This bill has still not had a hearing. It survived the cutoff date because it has a "Notice of Exemption" attached to it and is sitting in the Ways and Means Committee. The bill would essentially put into statute that the active employee contribution rate would be assessed every 6 years. The PERS Board had an extensive discussion on this bill in their April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board took no position on this but staff explained that for there to be a staff recommendation on this, the actuarial would have to weigh in. Staff also noted that under existing PERS statutes, the fund can be reviewed now by the actuarial between every 4-6 years.

**SB83** This bill was another bad 2015 Legislative session idea-changing up the compensation of the PERS Board. It, like AB75, was pre-filed by the former Controller and also died as it did not survive the April 12<sup>th</sup> cut-off.

**SB272** This bill was filed by the same Law Enforcement Association as AB382 and asked also for special treatment of this group's PERS contributions-tied to compensation increases. The bill has been amended to take any requirement of PERS to treat this group differently so PERS no longer has a position upon this bill, which as amended did survive the April 12 cutoff.

**SB405** This bill would have created a whole new type of disability retirement for new-on-the-job and injured law enforcement/first responders. This type of change was attempted in the 2005 legislature and had significant fiscal and legal problems and did not survive the April 12<sup>th</sup> cutoff.

Bills that PERS and we continue to support:

**SB224** (RPEN's "PERS Privacy Bill")

**SB416** This bill would provide for NV PERS beneficiaries who are children and seeking to be adopted.

As the Session moves on towards the finish line, we are continuing to fight to protect your Retiree Retirement Security and Retiree Healthcare!

