

2021 Legislative Session-2nd Weekly Update February 12, 2021

Hello to all our AFSCME 4041 Retiree members! The Nevada State Legislature's 81st Regular Session which began last week had a **first** hearing on the Public Employees Benefits Program (PEBP) Budget before the Assembly Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government on Wednesday February 10, 2021.

More than 30 active employees and retirees gave both written and oral public comments on the Governor's recommended budget. We thank all those that testified and/or submitted written public comments, as the points raised about the devastating cuts across the board are clearly a matter of concern to the Committee members. The Committee members asked many pointed questions and asked PEPB for clarification in writing on certain specifics-including the Retiree cuts. Those cuts will reduce life insurance benefits for all PEPB members, eliminate a valuable long term disability benefit in the time of a pandemic, reduce Retiree health care appropriations for Medicare retirees, and raise deductibles and out of pocket expenses for non-Medicare and pre-Medicare retirees. We submitted written comment in opposition to the Budget cuts and will be meeting with the committee members to have a more detailed discussion.

The legislature's hearings are also now available on live streaming on the Legislature's website through its "Events" calendar <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/>

And also the legislature's new YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-k1jpdoDwTC475c1CX9cEA>

You can also view archived past hearings such as last Wednesday's PEBP Budget Hearing if you missed it: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Video/>

This update will also be posted on our website under the "Nevada 81st (2021) Session News" tab on the website's home page: <https://www.afscmenvretirees.org/>

We are continuing to track and monitor the new BDRs being filed and bills dropping daily-currently 174 items (bills/budgets and "BDRs"-bill drafts submitted but not turned into bills yet) in the Legislative Counsel Bureau's "PLT" (personalized legislative tracking system). Most of the bills we are tracking are still being drafted. The bills must be read and analyzed once they are released to make sure they don't have a negative impact on your Retirement benefits or Retiree Health care. We will be culling the list also as session goes on-some items will drop off for various reasons-including not making it "out" by several legislative deadlines (120 day legislative calendar here): https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Docs/120-day_calendar.pdf

We also attended the "public employee coalition" strategy meetings that all PERS eligible public employees' lobbyists are invited to attend as well as any other working groups hosted by legislators and the NV AFL-CIO meetings that are held every session for labor leaders and partners and there was mutual agreement that this session will be like no other that Nevada has ever experienced. As of right now-while we have the virtual access to do the work we need to do to protect your benefits and rights, there is no plan to "open" the building to the public in the immediate future. Things are moving a little slower than past sessions but everyone is mindful

that we all need to get used to the constraints that are very real in a state legislature process conducting its business during a Pandemic. We do however expect things to “pick up” soon. We will keep you posted-and again, thanks to all those who attended Wednesday’s hearing “virtually”. Feel free to send us your thoughts and any questions to either Priscilla Maloney directly maloneypriscilla@gmail.com or to the office: Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com