

2021 Legislative Session-6th Weekly Update March 16-26, 2021

Hello to all our AFSCME 4041 Retiree members! These last two weeks have seen the Nevada legislature extend deadlines by suspending the rules for the last two Mondays' bill introductions in both the Assembly and Senate. This resulted in a flurry of bill introductions the rest of last week resulting in a total of 904 Bills and resolutions being introduced so far this session. We have been told that the next key deadline (all bills not subject to exceptions-to move out of their current committees to the assembly or senate floors for a vote) April 9 will NOT be extended. We are also being told that the building is expected to open in the next couple of weeks (early-to mid April).

We are now at day 57 of this 120 day session:

https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Docs/120-day_calendar.pdf

Many of the BDRs that we reviewed and flagged at the beginning of the session have now "turned into bills" and we are tracking a total of 201 items: 141 Bills and resolutions and 58 BDRs. For a reminder: our primary areas of concern are Public Employee Benefits Program (PEBP), NV PERS, Elections rights and voter accessibility, and other public employee/public retiree issues.

There is no formal posting of the next important date coming up but during last week's monthly PEBP Board meeting, Executive Director Laura Rich announced that the PEBP Budget's **first subcommittee closing** (this is not the "final" hearing closing the budget which happens before the full Budget committee) is tentatively set for Tuesday April 6 at a time to be announced. **We will send you another reminder at the end of this week but we would like anyone in our membership who can to call in and give their opinion/thoughts on the proposed budget which includes the Governor's recommended and PEBP Board approved reductions in benefits and increased costs for both active employees and retirees.**

To participate in this budget hearing by using your phone to call in and give your opinion on the PEBP budget cuts you will use the instructions here so take a look at the overview on how to participate and give testimony here:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/SessionInformation/Help>

We will give the final instructions on how to call into the hearing inside our next update with links to the actual Assembly Ways and Means "General Government" Subcommittee meeting registration page once this PEBP budget hearing has been actually scheduled.

With billions of dollars on its way to help state and local governments from the just-passed **American Rescue Plan**, we reject the notion that any cuts to retiree healthcare programs such as our own here in Nevada (PEBP) are needed to balance the budget and we continue to make our voices heard throughout the legislative session.

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