

Weekly Update February 15, 2019

Happy Saturday to all our AFSCME 4041 Retiree members! The Nevada State legislature's 80th Regular Session is now ramping up into high gear. More and more bills are being introduced every day as the pace quickens. For a brief look at how a bill becomes law in Nevada, here is an excellent guide/handy chart from the legislature's official website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/LegManual/2017/AppC.pdf>

We are currently tracking 78 bills, 125 BDRs (bill draft requests-see chart above for how a BDR becomes a bill) and 8 budgets, which includes PEBP and NV PERS. As we learn more about the different bills-what they do, who the sponsors are and whether they hurt or help Nevada state worker retirees, we will be editing our list. But some topics are very "hot" this session. We have heard that there are over 70 bills and BDRs waiting to become bills on Health Care alone! They cover everything from rising pharmaceutical costs to protections for pre-existing conditions.

We threw on our snow-boots (AGAIN!) this last week and met more of the new freshman lawmakers and attended multiple hearings, meetings with coalition partners such as Nevada AFL-CIO, and had one-on-one appointments with some of the legislators on our issues.

Both the NV PERS and PEBP systems had brief informational budgetary overview hearings in the joint Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance General Government subcommittee this week. We had a particularly detailed meeting in the committee going into the details of the PEBP budget. The legislators questioned PEBP quite closely on the issues of rising drug costs, how rates for the premiums are arrived at and as always, why PEBP seems to have "excess reserves" at the end of every budget cycle. Though PEBP has in the past given "enhancements" to members when the reserves get high, often in the form of contributions to HSAs (health savings accounts) or HRAs (health retirement accounts), several of the legislators serving on the committee questioned this past practice and asked why PEBP couldn't give the enhancements "up front" to the member in the form of reductions in premium costs. We will look forward to further discussions on these issues as we meet with legislators who serve on this Finance subcommittee.

By now all of our members should have received either a separate email inviting you to our legislative reception, and/or your latest "Senior Moment" newsletter with the invitation inside-please join us on February 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gold Dust West in Carson City for dinner and a chance to meet our newly elected legislators! 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