



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE WEEKLY UPDATE FROM:
THE PEACE OFFICERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION NEVADA,
LAS VEGAS POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION,
THE SOUTHERN NEVADA CONFERENCE OF POLICE SHERIFFS' AND
THE COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS OF NEVADA LOBBYISTS.**

WEEK 2 UPDATE February 15, 2015

Week No. 2 was another very eventful one. PERS gave a presentation to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. SB 11, Home Rule was heard in Senate Government Affairs. The way this bill is written it has the potential of giving local government unilateral change power because of how open ended it is. Clark County, Las Vegas, City of Reno, Washoe County, Sparks and other local government gave their presentations to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee. The City of Las Vegas disclosed their objectives and basically outlined what they want from all of us. Their objectives are also supported by the other entities.

Here are their objectives:

1. Reduce the cost of healthcare for public employees;
2. Support PERS reforms; (propose takeaways)
3. Change the arbitration process (eliminate collective bargaining or really restrict it).
4. Support legislation to “appropriately define a supervisor” (take them [Sgt.’s and above] out of collective bargaining.)
5. Support legislation that caps or reduces the “manifestation period” of presumptive illness of public service employees (Heart and Lung coverages)
6. Support legislation that limits the ability of employees to receive worker’s compensation benefits for occupational injuries and illnesses that result from stress, disciplinary action or performance evaluations or consultations;
 - a. Oppose any measure that mandates the granting of new employee benefits that post additional costs to the city (without forcing the issue to the bargaining table).
 - b. Oppose legislation that increases worker’s compensation benefits without providing for concurrent cost control.
 - c. Oppose legislation to include subjective complaints of paid in determining partial disability awards.

Ron Dreher met with Assemblyman Kirner and discussed PERS, Collective bargaining and worker's compensation issues. He appears to be set in stone on PERS. He refuses to see just how good our PERS system really is and is dead set on presenting a hybrid version to change our retirement system. As for collective bargaining he is very naïve as to how it works in Nevada. He wants worker's compensation to have a set life and not have life-time reopeners. So....we are in for a really defensive session in keeping the benefits we have – Defined benefit, Binding Arbitration and worker's compensation benefits.

Chris Collins, Rusty McAllister (PFFN), Tim Ross and Ron Dreher spent the rest of the week lobbying AB 3 – PERS and AB 54 – Suspension of collective bargaining in fiscal emergencies should the Department of Taxation take over a local government. Each member of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee was provided a flash drive containing positive PERS information. They spent time with each committee member informing them of why AB 3 was the beginning of the attack on our PERS system. This bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Kirner, changes the makeup of the PERS Board. Both Rusty and Chris did awesome research on this proposed legislation and were able to show how the PERS Board had a similar makeup in 1986. Their research showed that in 1986 this changed and between 1986 and 1997 the PERS system as we know it today became constitutionally protected with the current PERS Board makeup.

As you all know we sent out an e-mail last week requesting all of you to contact each member of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee to oppose AB 3 (PERS) and AB 54 (Collective bargaining – Section 8 of the bill). Rusty and Chris will be providing the initial testimony on Monday, February 16, with Tim and Ron following up. For those that don't know, both Rusty McAllister and Chris Collins are also governor appointed members of the PERS Board.

AB 2 – the bill that would allow a weapon of a “CCW” permittee to be locked in a container in a motor vehicle, was originally scheduled for a “word session” for Friday, Feb. 13. They had a joint meeting with the school districts and all stakeholders and all approved the amendment. At this point the bill is scheduled to be on a work session in Assembly Judiciary for Friday, February 20, 2015 at 0800 hours.

AB 148, the “campus carry bill” was introduced by Assemblywoman Fiore on Friday, Feb. 13. We assume it will be just as controversial as it was last session.

Jim Wells, the former executive director of the Nevada Public Employees Benefit Program (PEBP) was appointed by the Governor as the new state finance director. And...that is a scary thought considering the damage he has done to the state insurance system. More on this as the session continue.

There is much speculation about Seniority Majority Leader Roberson's bill to again define what a supervisor is. We suspect that this bill will drop soon. It is rumored to contain language to attempt to eliminate supervisors (Sgt.'s and above) from having collective bargaining.

We are also waiting for Assemblyman Kirner's “Hybrid PERS” bill to drop. We have begun to prepare our defense for this bill as well.

As we stated last week if you would like to watch the committee hearing here is the link:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/>

We will be requesting all of you to do your part to preserve our benefits by voicing your individual comments to your legislators. We will provide talking/bullet points and e-mail/phone/twitter/etc addresses in the near future.

Thank you,

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