



**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 4 UPDATE February 28, 2015**

Parts of our weekly report are copied from the Retired Public Employees Network (RPEN) newsletter. We thank Marty Bibb, Executive Director and the staff at RPEN for allowing us to incorporate their weekly reports into our weekly reports.

**AB 54**

This bill is from the Tax Commission. It provides some guidelines for the Commission in the event they had to take over an entity. In one section it states that they could suspend your collective bargaining agreement until the local government was able to take back over. We are working on amendments with the Tax Commission to get rid of the suspension language. This bill is scheduled to be heard on Monday, March 2, at 8:30 a.m. in the ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS - Room 4100 Carson City.

**AB 190**

This bill is the PERS Hybrid bill sponsored by Assemblyman Kirner. This will change the way our public employee retirement system works and in our opinion will destroy PERS as we know it. It is a terrible bill and its intent is to fix our PERS system even though the PERS system is not broken. This bill is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday March 3, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – Room 4100. If you can make it please attend the legislative session or write (email) the members of the ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS and ask them to oppose this needless legislation. The committee links are listed below.

What a week this was! It started off on Monday with **SB 153** Heart & Lung, Cancer and Hepatitis changes. Rusty McAllister (PFFN), did an awesome job of providing the legislative history of our H&L bill. This bill, sponsored by Senator Settelmeyer, seeks to basically destroy our conclusive presumptive coverages that are listed in NRS pertaining to workers

compensation. Following the hearing Rusty met with Senator Settlemeyer and discussed compromised language similar to what we had testified to in the 2011 legislative session. At this point we stand firmly opposed to any changes to our H&L. The professional firefighters filled up three rooms in Carson City and one large room in Las Vegas. Our professional peace officers made their presence known as well. We certainly would like to see our association members fill the rooms as well. These benefits do apply to all of us as well.

That same day, Chris Collins, Tim Ross, Rusty McAllister, Ryan Beaman and Ron Dreher, testified in opposition to **AB 109**. This bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Titus seeks to alter the way our association dues are collected and attempts to take our dues and make them basically a public record by providing a legislative audit and providing our dues collections to the Nevada Employee/Employer Management Relations Board (EMRB).

On Wednesday **AB 3** was up for a committee vote. **AB 3** was the first of several PERS legislation changes proposed by Assemblyman Kirner. This was a work session and accordingly, we did not get to have a say in this hearing. However, we had lobbied the bill extensively and through a bi-partisan effort achieved a majority vote to kill the bill. Here is an excerpt from RPEN's newsletter which explains what happened very well:

*“It was GREAT news for the Nevada Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) today (March 25) as Assembly Bill 3, which would have altered the structure of the PERS Retirement Board to allow two non-PERS participants from the private sector a voting position on the board, died in Committee.*

*It was the second time this month the bill has been addressed in the Assembly Government Affairs Committee. Reno Assemblyman Randy Kirner sponsored the bill and the amendment because he felt that taxpayers, who he said are on the hook for PERS, had no voice on the board. Committee Chairman John Ellison was forced to second the bill himself after he couldn't get a second following a motion by Assemblywoman Shelly Shelton. Only two members voted for the bill the other twelve voted against it”.*

*As the week progressed we monitored and lobbied several bills that were heard. **SB 158** and **SB 168** both of these bills dealt with collective bargaining.*

***SB 158**, Sponsored by Senator Goicoechea and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce proposed to make the contract ratification process by local governments more transparent by providing exhibits, tentative agreements, etc and preventing a consent agenda only vote by local governments from in effect hiding negotiation information. We provided an amendment to the bill that would cause not only collective bargaining agreements, but all contracts public and private, to be transparent and open to public scrutiny at minimum 3-10 days prior to a public hearing.*

***SB 168**, sponsored by Senator Settlemeyer proposed to define "fiscal emergency" under **NRS 288.150**. We also provided an amendment to this bill after seeing the enormous impact it would have on our collective bargaining by restricting monies that are currently available from any fact finding or arbitration. This was attempted in 2011, but not accomplished and as a result,*

*defining "fiscal emergency" became a mandatory topic of bargaining under **NRS 288.150** and left to local governments and labor associations to define should they negotiate a multi-year agreement. However, apparently, our Republican Senators did not like the fact that many local governments had not negotiated that language when they negotiated successor agreements. Therefore, Senator Settlemeyer proposed **SB 168**. Our awesome CPA Beth Kohn-Cole, provided us with amending language and rebuttal statements to give to the committee.*

*The committee did not vote on either bill but wanted us to attempt to find a compromise to these issues. More on this as we proceed to week number 5. Week 5 begins on Monday (March 2) with **AB 54**, listed above, and on Tuesday with **AB 190** the next attack on PERS by Assemblyman Kirner.*

*Here is RPEN's look at **AB 190**:*

*“Speaking of which, Assemblyman Kirner has another bill, **Assembly Bill 190**, which seeks to add a second, hybrid pension plan, more like a 401-K plan, to the existing system for new hires only. A first hearing on that bill will be Tuesday, March 3, again before the Assembly Government Affairs Committee at 8:00 a.m. It isn't the first time the issue of adding a second pension plan has been brought forth. During the 2009 session former Executive Officer of PERS Dana Bilyeu testified during a Senate Hearing that it could cost more than \$1.5 million just to implement a new second system, not to mention recurring costs of having two separate pension plans. During that same hearing in 2009, Carole Vilardo of the Nevada Taxpayers Association, testified when asked about the defined contribution and defined benefit plans, "when you consider changing from defined benefit to defined contributions, you have an accelerated pace at which you must pay off your liability. We would then have much higher contribution rates and a larger hole in the budget". Six years later the start-up costs would undoubtedly be much more, which will no doubt be mentioned when the current Executive Officer of PERS Tina Leiss offers her testimony against a second plan.”*

We are hoping that those copied on this e-mail put the call out for our members to contact their legislators who sit on the Assembly Government Affairs Committee and request they oppose **AB 190**. The link is listed below.

"Share your Opinion" on the Legislative website by clicking on the link below. Select the bill number you wish (you don't have to know the bill name) and you can indicate if you are "for" or "against" a bill and you can also add comments. Your name, address and other personal information will not be published. (Currently **AB190** has 582 "Against" and 5 "For" the bill)

Share your opinion on these bills **HERE**.

If you are unable to attend in person you can watch the meeting online by clicking on this **LINK**, and click on "View" next to the meeting. You can also contact members of the Government Affairs Committee by email or phone to express your opposition to **Assembly Bill 190**.

Thank You,  
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