

Legislative Update May 1st

Deadlines Update

The April 25th deadline for non-exempt (and non-waiver) bills to pass out of the first house has come and gone, and only 15 bills did not survive that deadline. In all, only about 265 of the 1010 bills that were introduced fell victim to the last two deadlines, leaving the vast majority of bills still in play with just five weeks to go. This does not include any emergency legislation that will be introduced between now and the end of session.

Overall, quite a few bills passed their first house on party line votes. This bears watching as they move through the second house and possible vetoes by the Governor should they pass the Democrat-controlled Legislature with only partisan support.

The upcoming deadlines for non-exempt (and non-waiver) bills are May 19th (committee passage in the second house) and May 25th (second house passage).

It's All About the Money

On Monday, May 1st, the Economic Forum meets to present its forecast for general fund revenue for the remainder of this fiscal year and the next biennium. Their forecast is binding on the Legislature as it closes budgets. It's expected the Forum's forecast will paint a rosy picture of how tax and fee revenue streams, primarily the major taxes, are currently performing and will continue to perform. The major taxes are: sales, gaming, insurance premium, mining, payroll, property, live entertainment, and cigarettes.

Once the fiscal picture is defined, that marks the unofficial start of "the end game," where the horse-trading begins in earnest regarding policy and fiscal priorities, and will continue up to and through the last day of session.

Looking to the immediate future, because of the high number of bills that have been granted exemptions and re-referred to the money committees, there will be a lot of activity in Senate Finance and Assembly Ways & Means to decide which bills get funded and move those bills forward. The joint Ways and Means/Finance subcommittees will continue to close budgets and present those recommendations to the full joint Ways & Means/Finance committee to officially close, which starts Saturday May 6th.

NVPCA Legislation

None of the legislation the NVPCA is following fell victim to the April 25th deadline, so those bills that survived the April 14th deadline are still in play. Here's an updated recap:

- *FQHC Incubator Project Funding*: The joint subcommittee on human services has closed this budget account, which contains a \$1 million appropriation for the FY18-19 biennium. However, it could be reopened and adjusted if necessary, but that appears unlikely at this point.

- *Patient-Centered Medical Homes*: Senate Bill 139, as amended, authorizes the implementation of value-based reimbursements by commercial carriers and Medicaid for care delivered through a PCMH. It was re-referred to the Senate Finance committee to address any fiscal impact there may be on the state, is exempt, and has not been scheduled for hearing in Finance yet.
- *State-Funded Program for Family Planning Services*: Senate Bill 122, which would establish the program, was amended and passed the Senate on a party line vote. SB122 will be heard in committee in the Assembly Wednesday May 3rd. The challenge is still to send a bill to the Governor that he won't veto, and that will require bi-partisan support. Assembly Bill 397 provides \$4 million to initially fund the program and is also exempt. It's not expected to be voted on until late in the session, once the fate of SB122 is clear.
- *Sex Education*: Assembly Bill 348, which was amended and passed out of committee on a party line vote, has been re-referred to Ways & Means and will be heard Monday May 1st.
- *Affordable Care Act*: Senate Bill 233 would put into NRS women's preventive health services covered under the ACA, as well as allow for 12-month dispensing of birth control. It was amended, will be again, and has been re-referred to Finance, but hasn't been scheduled yet. Assembly Bill 408 would put key provisions of the ACA into NRS and would also prohibit insurers in addition to health care providers from discriminating against certain persons, passed the Assembly on a party line vote, and will be heard in Senate Health & Human Services Wednesday May 3rd.
- *Collaborative Practice of Pharmacy*: Senate Bill 260 would establish this and was amended to include and define collaborative drug therapy management, require an ongoing relationship with and written consent from the patient, and measures that further define the practitioner-pharmacist relationship. It passed the Senate unanimously.
- *Recreational Marijuana*: There are 23 bills this session addressing marijuana, mainly designed to allow for retail sales beginning July 1st so the state can reap fee and tax revenue ASAP, which is projected at \$70 million each year for the next biennium (K-12 education is the main beneficiary). The tax bills (SB487, SB508 and AB463) have each been granted exemptions or waivers and won't be processed until late in the session. Senate Bill 236, which would allow marijuana to be consumed in certain public places, passed the Senate on a party line vote. Again, still lots to be done.