

Legislative Update May 22nd

Start the Countdown Redux

With two weeks to go, start the countdown. Last Friday was the deadline for bills to pass committee in the second house; this Friday is the deadline for second house passage.

The priorities are becoming clearer – maybe not quite clear – with regard to end game policy and budgets. Education Savings Accounts and certain labor issues should top the list. Revenue surplus for the remainder of this fiscal year will be consumed by budget overruns – witness the number of supplemental appropriation bills that are being processed by the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees. Revenue surplus for the FY18-19 biennium will be directed to a limited, modified weighted funding formula for K-12 public schools.

The Legislature has been busy closing major budgets – higher education, K-12, Medicaid, DHHS, etc. – and will finish resolving remaining budget differences May 25th. Once all budgets are closed, the remaining tasks will be to finish moving policy bills leadership wants to pass, process exempt bills along with waiver and emergency bills, and introduce the budget bills, which includes the most important appropriations and authorization bills.

Call to Action – Family Planning Services

Senate Bill 122, which is one of the top priorities for the NVPCA this session and would establish a state-funded program for family planning services, passed the Assembly on a 29-13 vote. Because it was amended in the Assembly, it went back to the Senate to vote to concur in or reject the amendment. The vote was going to be May 24th, but the Senate unexpectedly concurred in the amendment last Friday. SB122 is expected to be on the Governor's desk either May 22nd or May 23rd.

Please contact the Governor's office (775.684.5670) and/or email letters of support to Chief of Staff Mike Willden (mwillden@gov.nv.gov) about how important SB122 is for the state, particularly rural Nevada. Over 170,000 women in Nevada are in need of family planning services and don't have access to them. SB122 will make sure women in Nevada can get the family planning they need for healthy families and healthy communities.

The Week That Was

Overlooked in last week's recap – mea culpa – was that funding for the FQHC incubator project was officially approved with the closing of Budget Account 3195. The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Partnerships and Grants has issued a Request For Information ([FQHC Pilot Program RFI](#)); deadline for submissions is June 2nd.

Family Planning Funding, Women's Healthcare and Sex Ed: AB397, which proposes initial funding of \$4 million for a state family planning program, will come back for a vote, but the

question is how much will be appropriated (it won't be \$4 million). The most likely scenario is to make whole those rural areas that lost Title X funding.

Senate Bill 233, which would put into state law women's health care provisions from the Affordable Care Act plus provide for the 12-month prescribing and dispensing of birth control, passed the Senate on a 13-8 vote and will be heard in the Assembly Health & Human Services committee May 22nd. The NVPCA will testify in support. It's expected to be processed quickly.

Meanwhile, Assembly Bill 249, which proposes to allow for 12 month prescribing and dispensing of birth control, is on the Senate floor after passing the Senate Health and Human Services committee. The preference, however, is for SB233 to be the bill that allows this.

Assembly Bill 348, which would establish sex education curriculum in public schools, remains stuck in Assembly Ways and Means, awaiting possibly another amendment to assuage conservative groups.

Patient Centered Medical Homes: Senate Bill 139 awaits a vote by the Senate Finance Committee in order to continue moving forward. The fiscal notes from Medicaid and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health have been removed.

Medicaid Coverage as a Public Option: Assembly Bill 374 would create the Nevada Care Act, which would mirror Medicaid health insurance coverage and be offered to Nevadans who aren't eligible for Medicaid. Revenue generated by the Nevada Care Act would be used to further sustain Medicaid. AB374 passed out of the Assembly Health and Human Services committee unanimously and is on the Assembly floor.

Other Issues: Senate Bill 165, which would reinstitute BMI in school districts for certain grades, was amended and passed by the Assembly Health and Human Services committee and has moved to the Assembly floor.

Senate Bill 162, which would allow for more efficient use of psychology assistants, interns and trainees, was amended and passed the Assembly Commerce and Labor and is on the Assembly floor.

Assembly Bill 408, which would put into state law certain provisions from the Affordable Care Act, stayed alive when it was amended again and voted out by the Senate Health and Human Services committee. It moves to the Senate floor, where it remains to be seen if any Republicans will vote for it.

It looks like SB508, which is the Governor's bill, will be the vehicle to tax retail sales of recreational marijuana. All of the revenue it's expected to generate -- \$69.3 million each year for FY18-19 -- will go to the K-12 Distributive School Account, and was accounted for thusly when the Legislature closed the DSA last Saturday.