

Legislative Update May 29th

Eight Days a Week

Fortunately, it's for just one week, the upcoming week, the last week of session.

Two deadlines remain: May 31st, when budget bills must be introduced and exempt bills must be processed by the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees; and June 5th, the last deadline, when the 79th session of the Nevada Legislature comes to an end.

Despite the short amount of time left, there's still a lot to decide and do:

- Which exempt bills get processed and what budgets need to be adjusted because of the funding each requires?
- What are the policy and budget priorities for Democrats, Republicans and the Governor, including how to appropriate the projected \$140 million surplus for the remainder of this fiscal year and the next biennium?
- Will the budget bills get the required two-thirds majorities in each house?

The key issues that remain are:

- Education Savings Accounts – will there be requirements for means testing or a sliding scale, what's the level of funding (the Governor asked for \$60 million) and will the use of public money to fund them be prohibited?
- Labor Issues – minimum wage, overtime pay, and paid sick leave are all on the table.
- Energy – addressing the state's net metering program with regard to rooftop solar and raising minimum requirements to comply with the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards for electricity generation are the two big issues, with NVEnergy, big gaming and the renewable energy industry all involved.
- Marijuana Taxes – The Governor wants to own this; a 10% tax on the retail sales of recreational marijuana was the only new tax he proposed. Will Democrats let him or will they pass a different bill instead? It's important to note the Distributive School Account budget was closed with the expectation the Governor's bill (and all the projected revenue) would pass as is accounted for in that budget. Also, how will the tax structure for recreational marijuana compare to that for medicinal marijuana?
- Criminal Justice Reform – Democrats are pushing legislation to undo "tough on crime" policies and focus instead on rehabilitation and reintegration policies.

Calls to Action – Patient-Centered Medical Homes and Sex Education

Senate Bill 139 continues to be held hostage by Senate Democrats and continues to await a vote by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill passed out of the policy committee by a unanimous vote and the fiscal notes have been removed. If it's not voted on by Wednesday (May 31st), it dies. Please email Finance Chairwoman Joyce Woodhouse (Joyce.Woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us) to let her know this bill is very important for the NVPCA and should not be a victim of partisan politics.

Assembly Bill 348 was passed by the Assembly Ways and Means committee last week after being heavily amended yet again. As amended, the bill requires school districts to submit reports to the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the interim Legislative Committee on Education on the status of sex education programs, including how many hours of instruction are provided, how many students participated, how many didn't and why. It still preserves current opt-in policies for parents and requires periodic reviews to ensure content is current, age-appropriate, medically accurate, and non-discriminatory. The next step is a vote by the Assembly. Please contact the Assembly members to urge their support. The email addresses can be found here: [Assembly emails](#)

The Week That Was

Family Planning Funding and Women's Healthcare: Last Friday evening, the Governor signed Senate Bill 122. The bill establishes a state-funded program for family planning services. Only two Republicans voted for the bill, but sometimes policy is more important.

A new funding proposal for Assembly Bill 397, which would provide initial funding for the state family planning program, has been submitted so this bill can move forward.

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 both houses and is has been sent to the Governor, who's expected to sign it.

Assembly Bill 249, which proposes to allow for 12 month prescribing and dispensing of birth control only, also passed both houses and is back to the Assembly to concur in the Senate amendment.

Assembly Bill 408, which would put into state law certain provisions from the Affordable Care Act, passed the Senate, but on a party line vote, just as it did in the Assembly. It's likely to be vetoed.

Collaborative Practice of Pharmacy: Senate Bill 260 passed the Assembly by a unanimous vote and heads back to the Senate to concur in the Assembly's amendment.

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 awaits a vote by the Ways and Means committee.

Obesity and BMI: Senate Bill 165, which would reinstitute BMI in school districts for certain grades, passed both houses and has been sent to the Governor.

Psychology assistants, interns and trainees: Senate Bill 162 passed the Assembly and is back in the Senate for concurrence.