

Legislative Update June 12th

It Ended Not With A Bang, But A Whimper . . .

There was definitely some whimpering about what some have called the “do nothing session.” While that may be true to some degree, women’s and children’s issues, along with other issues to improve social and health inequities, fared pretty well overall.

The end game deals were reached Sunday evening and processed in the Senate (as reported in last week’s update), resulting in a rather anti-climatic final day that was absent any sense of urgency and became mostly a matter of finishing the process.

There were some last minute surprises, but nothing that jeopardized ending on time. The new medical school at UNLV will receive \$25 million from the general fund after the Governor received a private donation in the same amount earlier that day. State workers received an additional one percent COLA (on top of the two percent already approved), and drivers for network transportation companies Uber and Lyft must now have business licenses, something that came out of the blue in the last two hours.

The strangest occurrence, however, was when Assembly Democrats cast protest votes on a construction bill sponsored by two of their own when they thought it had been negatively amended, which it hadn’t. Their action was reconsidered, and the bill passed, but the two sponsors still refused to vote, for reasons only they may know.

The Rest of the Week That Was

The Governor intended to sign and veto all the bills he wanted to by the close of business last Friday, but it doesn’t appear he has. As a result, there are three bills on our bill tracking document that have not been acted on since making it to the Governor’s office. Therefore, there will be one final bill tracking document to follow. Those bills are:

- Assembly Bill 249, which allows for the 12-month prescribing and dispensing of birth control;
- Assembly Bill 374, which establishes the Nevada Care Plan in order to offer the Medicaid package of health insurance to those not eligible for Medicaid; and
- Assembly Bill 408, which puts into statute certain provisions from the Affordable Care Act.

As this is written, he has signed into law 520 bills and vetoed 35.

Among those signed into law this past week were two bills the NVPCA actively supported: Senate Bill 260, which establishes the collaborative practice of pharmacy; and Senate Bill 162, which allows for more productive use of psychological assistants, interns and trainees.

One bill mentioned last week not on our bill tracking but bears watching in the future is Senate Bill 539. As mentioned, it requires cost/pricing transparency by pharmacy benefit managers for diabetes drugs, and was amended to include most of the provisions from Senate Bill 265, which was vetoed by the Governor. SB265 required cost/pricing transparency of diabetes drug manufacturers. Nevada will become one of the few states with such a law. Whether it helps to lower costs for consumers is to be determined, as is the precedent it may set for other drugs. The Governor has not yet signed SB539, but has stated he will.

On a disappointing note, the Governor vetoed the sex education bill last Thursday. As disappointing as his veto of Assembly Bill 348, particularly in light of the concessions made by the bill's sponsor to accommodate the concerns of all stakeholders, was the Governor's veto message ([AB348 veto message](#)), particularly his concerns with parents opting in. The bill was dead in committee without the opt-in provision and other aspects that gave school districts and parents control. Damned if you do, damned if you don't.

Please see the updated bill tracking document for the almost final result of bills the NVPCA was involved in during the session.