



Nevada Chapter AGC Your Eye on the Legislature

Week 13



We are sad to report the sudden passing of Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson early Saturday morning. He was only 51-years-old. Thompson was appointed to represent District 17 in North Las Vegas in 2013, and dedicated his legislative career to improving the quality of life for those in need. His accomplishments include passing bills that increased educational opportunities for students, expanded access to HIV testing, and ended employment discrimination against those with criminal records.

In addition to serving in the Legislature, the North Las Vegas native enjoyed a career in public service for nearly three decades. Thompson spent his free time volunteering in his community, including working to support abused and neglected children in the foster care system as a court appointed special advocate (CASA), a role he held for more than 17 years.

Known for his sharp style, glowing smile and loving heart, Tyrone will be sorely missed. His legacy of kindness and compassion will live on through the positive impact he had on so many as a public servant, legislator, mentor and friend. Our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Your Eye on the Legislature

The hearings continued through week 13, but as many bills have a fiscal impact on the final budget, legislators needed to wait for the report from the Economic Forum, which serves as the final revenue estimate for the biennial budget. The projection is nearly \$43 million more than legislators originally expected. While it sounds like a lot of money, relative to the \$8.8 billion budget requested by the Governor, it doesn't go very far. It also includes the one-time Wynn Resorts settlement with the Nevada Gaming Commission of \$20 million for the casino's poor handling of sexual harassment accusations against Steve Wynn. The remaining \$23 million is for the biennium, which means only \$11 million per year, which isn't nearly enough to cover all bills being considered in the money committees. Many of these bills are pet projects of legislators or contain promises made on the campaign trail.

Complicating matters, the Governor's budget includes \$98 million dollars comes from extending the sunset on the Modified Business Tax. That proposal may require a 2/3 majority – the Legislative Council Bureau will be issuing an opinion on the matter in the coming days. If that is the case, one Republican in the Senate would have to vote for the extension and the Speaker would have to hold every Democrat in the Assembly.

As we approach the next deadline on May 17th for Second Committee Passage, we are starting to see bills get passed out of the committees and a few even get signed by the Governor. Activity will continue to increase as we are now officially in the final month of session.

Notable Bill Signed by the Governor

This week AB26 was signed into law by Governor Sisolak. This bill was sponsored by the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor on behalf of the Nevada State Contractor's Board. This bill raises the amount that can be awarded to an injured party from \$35,000 to \$40,000 and increases the amount that can be recovered from a single contractor to from \$400,000 to \$750,000.

On this day in history...

On May 6, 1994, the rail tunnel under the English Channel was officially opened, connecting Britain and the European mainland for the first time since the Ice Age. The channel tunnel, or "Chunnel," connects England to France, 31 miles away.

As the world's longest undersea tunnel, the Chunnel runs under water for 23 miles, with an average depth of 150 feet below the seabed. Each day, about 30,000 people, 6,000 cars and 3,500 trucks journey through the Chunnel on passenger, shuttle and freight trains.

Source: History.com