

Nevada Chapter AGC

Your Eye on the Legislature

Week 16



Last Friday marked the second-to-last major deadline; bills had to be passed out of the second house for further consideration. Next up – final adjournment, or sine die, by midnight on June 3. As we approach the end, we are seeing different tricks to try to secure the passage of bills. This is the time when rules get suspended and we have to watch everything like a hawk to make sure nothing slips by us.

The bills that consumed much of the time last week were SB543 and AB538. SB543 is the new education funding formula. Although not an AGC issue, per se, SB543 is a wholesale change in the way the State funds K-12 education and is one of the major pieces of legislation that will be in play up until the end.

AB538 would eliminate the sunset on the payroll tax and is a key component of the Governor's proposed budget, providing about \$100 million in revenue. It was heard in the Assembly Taxation Committee where the legality of passing the measure without a 2/3 majority was questioned. Some view the proposal as a tax increase, which would require a 2/3 majority vote in each house to pass, but the Legislative Counsel Bureau opined that it was not, and therefore could pass with a simple majority. The Democrats, who control both the Senate and Assembly, have a super majority in the Assembly, but are one short in the Senate. The measure passed out of committee and the full Assembly in a matter of days on a party line vote.

Yesterday, however, the Assembly rescinded the motion by which AB538 was brought for a vote by the body and placed the measure on the Chief Clerk's desk. This is unusual, but not unheard of, and leaves the bill in limbo. In the meantime, the Senate introduced SB551, which also eliminates the sunset, but ties the revenue to school safety measures, Pre-K programs and Zoom and Victory Schools.

This is one of the more contentious issues and will likely be debated for the remainder of the session.

Notable Bills Signed by the Governor Last Week

AB377, sponsored by Assemblyman Watts, will allow trucks operated by either natural

gas or one or more electric motors, to exceed the maximum weight allowance by 2,000 pounds. AB86, brought on behalf of the State Purchasing Office, cleans up language in NRS 332 and 333, the public purchasing statutes. AGC was successful in amending out language allowing online reverse auction bidding, defining “best value” and the prohibition of a hearing officer’s ability to order discovery in an appeal.

On This Day in History:

On May 27, 1937 the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was opened for pedestrian traffic.

Source: www.ontthisday.com

This is the final edition of the 2019 Eye on the Legislature. The End of Session Report will be available to our members beginning June 20, 2019.
