



# KLGA Capitol Corner

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## Pace and Partisanship Neck and Neck

February 20, 2015

Though loyal readers of Capitol Corner might have good reason to doubt motion being mistaken for progress, the 78<sup>th</sup> Nevada Legislature is proving the latter is possible. In fact, the Gang of 63, which convened on February 2, is speeding along the legislative highway, and the GOP-led pack shows no sign of slowing down. At least not just yet.

Just three weeks into the 2015 Legislative session and we have already seen 342 bill introductions, with close to one thousand BDRs still left to either be introduced as proposed legislation or disappear into the abyss. With all committee

chairmen leading a legislative panel for the first time and four committees being led by freshman lawmakers, no one was quite sure what to expect as the session ramped up. But with committees moving at a breakneck pace compared to sessions past, it is abundantly clear they showed up to work. How fast, you ask? One committee manager confided to this reporter that every bill (except for one) has been heard. At this point the committee is quickly running out of items to schedule and is at the mercy of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) until hard-charging LCB attorneys return with new bills, markups and amendments. Down the hall, one attaché told your intrepid reporter that her lawmaker has meetings booked every 15 minutes to handle the crowd wanting his/her time and ear. Something already evident is nothing will leave this building and head to the Governor without a strong stamp of approval from the Republican Party. Pace and partisanship has quickly become the theme so far of this year's session.

Last November's conservative sweep across the nation certainly was felt here in Nevada, with the Nevada Senate now led by the GOP for the first time since 2007 and the Nevada Assembly turned to the GOP for the first time since 1985. Legislators from

### Front and Center for NPA

A fast and furious start for NPA with several bills we're active in being heard in committee within the first 72 hours of the 2015 Session.

- Senate Health and Human Services Chairman Joe Hardy (R-Boulder City) gave past NPA president Dr. Judy Phoenix ample time to state NPA's concerns with Senate Bills 7 and 15.
- SB 7 examines the legal hold release. The measure is a priority for NPA. Dr. Lisa Linning wrote a letter of concern with suggested revisions.
- SB 15 is a 'Tarasoff like' bill--a duty to warn measure. Another priority for NPA, Dr. Linning wrote a letter of support with suggested revisions. We then followed up with amendment language requested of NPA by Chairman Hardy, suggesting to add CLADC and LADC to the list of providers.

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southern Nevada control nearly all major leadership positions for the first time in state history and committee chairs are split between the north and south in both houses. The Republican oats-feeling was seen early on, when a bond rollover plan for school construction originally crusaded by Senator Debbie Smith, D-Sparks, who is on medical leave following brain surgery in Texas during the first week of the session, was “repurposed” and made into the Majority’s own. Adding in language that would do away with Nevada’s current policy of paying prevailing wage on school construction projects, [SB119](#) passed the Senate 11-9, despite efforts by Democrats to have the prevailing wage language reinserted. And [AB125](#), the construction defect law, passed the initial house 25-17 straight down the party line. BOTH IN THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF THE SESSION. The GOP has fought, unsuccessfully, for years for these reforms. The smart money says collective bargaining and other union friendly laws will also be under the microscope this session. The GOP has started both early and strong and little doubt exists this will surely be an ongoing theme during this session.

## Quick Links

- [Bill Info](#)
- [Calendar of Meetings](#)
- [Committee Information](#)
- [Executive Budget](#)
- [Senate Information](#)
- [Assembly Information](#)
- [NV Electronic Legislative Information System \(NELIS\)](#)



## Retweets

**@AnjeanetteDamon:** Good news. [@sendebbiesmith](#) has been released from the hospital. Will stay in Houston for a while for follow up treatment.

**@RalstonReports:** Six Republicans, including the Senate majority leader, just introduced equal pay/pay discrimination penalties bill. <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=381>

**@Riley Snyder:** Even the [@washingtonpost](#) has picked up on [#nvleg](#) maybe-maybe not redistricting [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2015/02/04/nevada-republicans-could-take-up-mid-decade-redistricting/...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2015/02/04/nevada-republicans-could-take-up-mid-decade-redistricting/)

**@rayhagar:** Speaker [@hambrick4assemb](#) keeps busy at [#nvleg](#) in Carson City while recall effort goes forward in Las Vegas. <http://on.rgj.com/1A7GkMp>

One would be forgiven to assume Governor Brian Sandoval would be enjoying this once-in-a-generation chance with Nevada Republicans to run the state’s government. His proposed \$1.1 billion in new and extended taxes over the next two years has caused quite a stir in some corners. His proposed budget has been greeted with uncertainty and criticism from some legislative Republicans his coattails helped elect. The feeling is Sandoval did not respect the wishes of Nevada voters who had overwhelmingly defeated a margins tax proposal last November. A variation of which helps fund his budget. A faction of Assembly Republicans is making it clear the Administration’s plan will require considerable give and take, mostly give, before having a chance to escape the lower house. As many as 15 oppose the budget. Nevada’s Republican Attorney General has publicly opposed the plan. And Nevada’s State Treasurer, also a Republican, went so far as introducing his own “alternative budget” – a three page document eviscerated by the Senate Finance Committee.

And therein lies the rub. Too much of a good thing, some might argue. The intra-party squabbling among Republicans, especially in the Assembly, is both palpable and real. A recall effort is underway to remove Assembly Speaker John Hambrick (R-Las Vegas). Recall

organizers say Hambrick’s recent comments to look at all revenue possibilities and not his past pledge to oppose any and all tax increases is reason enough for the recall effort. Though he, along with the rest of the body, has yet to cast their first budget vote. Such action guarantees all the fireworks this session will not be confined to the legislative building.

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