



KLGA Capitol Corner

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Of Football...and a fumble

March 6, 2015

And at the end of the first quarter, the Republicans lead the Democrats.

Yes, it's spring training for America's National Pastime. Baseball is a month away from stepping up to the plate for the 2015 season. Only fitting then, that Capitol Corner has a decidedly pigskin feel to it this issue. Why? Because it *snowed* in Carson City last weekend and still feels like football weather. So there's that.

The Senate starting lineup, quarterbacked by Majority Leader Michael Roberson (R-Henderson), has not only established the pace but seem to be controlling the game at the end of the first quarter. Republicans have been mostly on offense, that's

Front and Center for NPA

- NPA, under the leadership of Legislative co-chair Dr. Lisa Linning, who authored NPA's testimony and co-chair Dr. Laurie Drucker, who delivered the testimony, was indeed front and center at a recent hearing on Assembly Bill 6, the Certified Autism Behavior Interventionist (CABI) bill. AB 6, in its original form, posed serious concerns for NPA. The bill seeks to increase the number of CABIs by eliminating state regs which require CABIs to meet educational, training and other requirements. This bill is a work in progress for us.
- Speed in the building is tempered by constraints inside of LCB to physically draft bills. A huge backlog is building right now, including a significant number of NPA bills. Bill drafters are working feverishly to complete bill language but we can expect to see hundreds of bills, literally, dropping within the next couple of weeks.

what comes with controlling not only the Senate, but the Assembly too. And sure to start a loud conversation over the chips and guacamole is a comment of fair play voiced by one Republican starter. Said the Committee Chairman to this humble scribe: whether brought by a member of his own team or the Democrats, he is going to hear every single bill. It's a consideration he said not given to Republican measures in previous sessions.

Some feel as if they have been training for this game since 1929, the last time the Republicans had control of both branches of the state legislature and the Governor's mansion. Speaking of the governor, Brian Sandoval has not stepped foot inside the legislative building so far this session. That's a marked departure from 2013. Last session, Mr. Sandoval by now had already made regular walks across the courtyard from his office in the Capitol to visit with, and sometimes caucus with, Republicans. Not this time. Maybe because he's in a luxury suite instead of on those cold metal bleachers, but he's having Republicans come to his office for meetings as he builds support for his budget. As head coach, it makes sense. The trappings of the office can help to get the attention of an excitable rookie.

Back inside the legislative huddle, major legislation typically held until the end of the session as bargaining chips has been heard and moved out of the Legislature at a record pace. One example? [AB125](#), the construction defect reform bill, is gone. Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

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So the Republicans continued to move, effortlessly it seemed, up and down the field. Just about ready to score again, the Republicans coughed up the ball, a fumble THEY caused. And the Democrats scored with Republicans on the sideline yelling at one another.

The bill in question, [SB119](#), the prevailing wage/school bond rollover bill, passed the Senate 11-9, despite efforts by Democrats to have the prevailing wage language removed. So far, so good, if you're in the stands rooting for the Republicans. But by the time the bill got to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee, GOP coaches and players started arguing with one another on the sidelines. Chairman John Ellison (R-Rurals) failed to secure enough votes to move the bill out of committee. Not so much to restrict the use of higher, prevailing wage in school construction projects, but concerns over the school bond rollover passing without first a vote of the people. Two GOP Assembly rookies, Vice Chairman John Moore (R-Las Vegas) and Assemblyman Glenn Trowbridge (R-Las Vegas), joined with the Assembly Democrats to block a motion to move the bill to the floor of the Assembly without a recommendation.

Quick Links

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- [NV Electronic Legislative Information System \(NELIS\)](#)



Retweets

[@RileySnyder](#) [@SenMRoberson](#): "If we all agreed on every issue, it'd be a pretty boring place." #nvleg

[@RalstonReports](#) [@katkinson702](#) going off, says [@GregBrowerNV](#) wanted people "to come to his office to kiss his ring." Bill Raggio would have gone nuts.

[@RileySnyder](#) Bill to make square dancing Nevada state dance passes 33-9, Dems and [@asmkirner](#) voting nay. #nvleg

[@seanw801](#) [@sendebbiesmith](#) at school bond rollover bill signing via smart phone. #lvrij #nvgov #nvleg

HISTORY:nevada [@HistoryNevada](#) NV Leg passed Act, Mar 3, 1866, to set NV Governor salary at \$6,000 per year; Lt Gov, \$3,000 per year, for 1867. <http://bit.ly/gxOnFp>

Senate Majority Leader Roberson, seeing momentum shift away from his team, quickly called an audible, suspending the rules and seeking an emergency measure on the Senate floor: a school rollover bond bill without the prevailing wage language. Once passed, he asked that the bill, [SB207](#) be immediately transferred to the Assembly for a vote.

While that drama was unfolding in the Senate, Assemblyman Moore, after accusing the Assembly Majority Leader of harassment, flipped his vote on SB 119 and moved it to the Assembly Floor. So by the time the Assembly convened Wednesday, both SB 119 and SB 207 were on their agenda. Republicans had a choice: SB 119--school bond rollover with prevailing wage (language sought by many Republicans in both houses) or SB 207--school bond rollover without prevailing wage. The Republican-majority Assembly decided on, drum roll please, the latter. SB 207 passed the lower house by a vote of 27-14.

Just a few hours later, the Governor signed the bill at a local Carson City elementary school, clearing the way to address pressing school construction needs. SB 119 still sits on the Assembly Chief Clerk's desk. The prevailing wage component could pass, but it would take 22 votes. But the Republicans have 27 votes, you scream, like some die-hard Cleveland fan. Yes, your math, dear reader, is correct. But this is the legislature after all.

Finally, Senator Debbie Smith, who underwent brain surgery in Texas in early February, has announced she will be returning to Carson City to assume her duties during the first full week of April. It goes without saying all members of the Gang of 63 will be very happy to see this perennial legislative all-star back in the line-up.

**Ed. note: Just as this issue goes to press, the Assembly Republicans moved SB 119, the original bond rollover bill with the prevailing wage language, off the Chief Clerk's desk. Discussion ensues about end of the middle class if bill passes. Vote taken. Bill passes 23-19.*

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