



KLGA Capitol Corner

© 2015 Kolesar & Leatham GA.

Between Storms...

April 17, 2015

We are between critical deadlines of the 78th Legislative session here in Carson City. The first deadline, bills out of the committee of jurisdiction, arrived on Friday, April 10. The deadline to move bills out of the house of origin hits Tuesday, April 21. Deadline One left the usual carnage of dead bills in its wake. Legislators can grant bills an exemption (through re-referral to a money committee) and often language of bills that die mysteriously reappears in remaining bills. Of the 486 bills introduced in the Assembly, 128 died. And of the 509 Senate bills, 118 fell. This week, most committee hearings are on hold or working

with skeleton agendas as attention is focused on the Senate and Assembly floors sessions. Both bodies have suspended all rules to ensure the remaining 749 bills are addressed in some fashion prior to the April 21st house of origin deadline.

Nearly all of Governor Brian Sandoval's proposed education initiatives remain alive, although the major funding sources, budget bills including [SB 252](#) or [AB 464](#) ([SB 378](#), Senator Spearman's proposal did not survive), have yet to be determined.

With just over six weeks remaining in Session '15, here is a brief recap of what survived, and what hasn't, in committee:

[AB 408](#), the "Bundy" bill introduced by Assemblywoman Michelle Fiore (R-Las Vegas) proposed gutting the federal authority in the state, including prohibiting the federal government from owning water rights and wide swaths of public land in Nevada. The non-partisan Legislative Counsel Bureau found Fiore's bill to be unconstitutional and based on a flawed legal theory about public lands. The bill was all but gutted and now only clarifies the commonly accepted idea that sheriffs are the primary law enforcement officers in unincorporated counties. Assemblywoman Fiore says committee members are "afraid" of legislative lawyers and there is going to be a "floor fight" with amendments in moving this out of the Assembly.

21 Senators in the House

On April 8th, amongst tears and cheers and a standing ovation, Senator Debbie Smith (D-Sparks) returned to Carson City just two months after undergoing surgery to remove a malignant brain tumor.

In a moving Senate floor session, Senator Aaron Ford (D-Clark County) openly choked back tears as he welcomed her stating, "You're fantastic, irreplaceable. You're strong and you're a survivor." The Senate floor was forced to take a recess following Senator Ford's brief speech to collect themselves before proceeding with floor votes.

KOLESAR & LEATHAM
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, LLC

400 S. Rampart Blvd. | Suite 400 | Las Vegas | NV 89145 | 702.331.3270 | www.klgov.com

The Assembly Judiciary Committee passed out [AB 375](#), the controversial Nevada Transgender bill, which would require public school bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers to be used by students of their biological gender. Opponents say the bill would further subject transgender students to being ostracized in public schools. A rare gubernatorial statement on a bill not yet at his desk said Mr. Sandoval "has strong concerns" about AB 375. Will it even survive the full Assembly?

[AB405](#), requiring doctors inform parents before performing an abortion on a minor, passed out of committee on a split vote late last Friday. Republican leaders had announced earlier they would not debate the matter and would instead turn the concept into a study, but later changed course and passed the measure out of committee.



Flags fly at half-staff early on Wednesday, April 15 at the Legislative Building to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. We've all heard the reason Nevada became a state was because of our gold and silver deposits helping the Union finance the Civil War. FALSE. Nevada became a state to help Lincoln get reelected in 1864 in a bitter, three-way race.



Retweets

@lmyerslvvj

@RGJRayHagar: Just like in 2003, we're gonna have a gaming vs. business battle on the "tax plan to save Nevada" #nvleg #lvvj

@seanw801 Results of GOP control of #nvleg becoming abundantly clear on deadline day in Assem Judiciary Committee work session. #nvleg #lvvj

@RalstonReports GOP Ass. caucus falling apart: @victoriadseman considers ethics complaint vs. @irahansen, calls him a "dictator." #LordoftheFlies

@RalstonReports Three days after hundreds of bills entombed on Deadline Day, Legislative Building seems like a morgue. Very little hallway activity.

@RalstonReports .@senmroberson just moved gov's tax bill to bottom of general file. Highly doubt he will call for a vote on it, though. No deal w/Dems yet.

@HistoryNevada Census dated Apr 1, 1930 showed Nevada population at 91,058 people. Reno was only town w/ more than 10,000. <http://bit.ly/10jmdIJ>

The so-called "campus carry" bill, [AB 148](#), sponsored by Assemblywoman Michelle Fiore (R-Las Vegas), allows gun owners with concealed weapons permits be allowed to carry their firearms on Nevada college campuses. The bill generated much support and equal opposition. The Governor has stated he would not take a position until the bill lands on his desk.

Maybe next session:

"Doobies for Dogs," [SB 372](#) introduced by Senator Tick Segerblom (D-Las Vegas), allowing pet owners to administer marijuana to sick pets has died. Part of an omnibus marijuana bill, it would have required the state to issue a registry card for a pet and certification from a vet that the animal had a "chronic or debilitating" medical condition that could be helped by marijuana.

[SB336](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Kieckhefer (R-Carson City, Washoe County-part), which would have allowed doctors to help terminally ill patients end their lives, did not survive the deadline.

Quick Links

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