



## 2017 Nevada State Legislature Highlights

Although the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session ended at midnight on Monday, June 5, Governor Brian Sandoval had until Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto hundreds of bills. Now that his work is now complete, the final compilation of NPA reports encapsulating the 2017 Session can be delivered. This session was again busy with many behavioral health related bills. NPA was tracking approximately 25 bills with about 14 needing our attention in one form or another.

Our major accomplishment this session was **NPA's landmark Senate Bill 163, Corporate Practice of Healthcare**. SB163 amending the Corporate Practice laws for psychologists and physicians, opening the door to equal partnered corporations to form as integrated healthcare practices. After approximately 5 years of grassroots efforts and preparation, our bill was sponsored this session by Senator Patricia Farley and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Nelson Araujo. Our lobbyist, Bryan Gresh, dedicated enormous amounts time and attention to make it possible for NPA to be at the right place and right time, with the right people primed to hear our message. All this made it possible for the bill to move through the legislative processes with far fewer bumps than we anticipated. It was at times arduous, but this is a satisfying milestone for Nevada psychologists and, especially NPA and its Legislative Team. It's the first time NPA has stood alone, on its own, and achieved an increasingly difficult feat in Carson City--passage of a bill with the help of only a sponsor. Senator Patricia Farley deserves a heartfelt thank you from our organization.

Other bills of note:

SB162 re: psych assistants and trainees

SB201 banning conversion therapy

AB429 Interjurisdictional PsyPac

AB105 reducing proposed suicide prevention CEs for license renewal

AB366 four Regional Mental Health Boards

AB457 Superboard attempt; now oversight element only

We have also attached two different types of unique reports which allow closer examination of the myriad steps taken by a specific piece of legislation to become law, from introduction to the governor's desk.

The first attachment, entitled "NPA Bill Report Sheet," contains the complete list of each bill followed on behalf of NPA during the session. The bill numbers are hyperlinks and the final disposition of each bill is noted. The remaining 14(!) Word docs, the "Life of.." bills, dissect the individual journeys of bills of primary interest to the NPA Team. The hyperlinks on the right

side of each step take the reader directly to the corresponding, official action—whether hearing minutes or Floor votes.

Next legislative steps include the Legislative Retreats in the fall to strategize for the Interim Year efforts, election preparation, and Meet and Greet activities with legislators. If you have questions about any of the reports, feel free to contact either co-chair.

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