

## **2021 Legislative Session Kickoff-1<sup>st</sup> Weekly Update February 6, 2021**

Hello to all our AFSCME 4041 Retiree members! The Nevada State legislature's 81st Regular Session began on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and will end May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Our full-time Lobbyist since 2014 Priscilla Maloney will be advocating for our interests and protecting your hard-earned state retirement incomes and healthcare benefits as always. We expect this session to be like none other in Nevada's history as a result of the global Covid19 pandemic. The legislature building is currently closed to the public, except for the sixty-three legislators themselves, a smaller reduced support staff of approximately 200 workers and a limited number of the press. We are hoping that as the weeks go by and more Nevadans are vaccinated and the numbers of Covid cases decrease, the building will be gradually opened and more members of the public including advocates and lobbyists will be allowed in to observe and participate in person in this legislative session. We have been informed that when the building is opened to the public (if possible) later in the session, there will be Covid screening requirements to enter and **masks will be mandatory inside.**

There are multiple systems set up to facilitate virtual participation in the meantime and information on how to observe/watch and/or participate in legislative committee hearings and floor sessions can be found here:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/SessionInformation/Help>

The legislature's hearings are also now not only available on live streaming on the Legislature's website through its "Events" calendar: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/> but you can also visit its new YouTube channel and watch either what's currently streaming or past hearings: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NVLeg>

Priscilla will be "virtually" onsite in Carson every week-attending hearings on bills as well as budgets, testifying and submitting exhibits on our behalf during hearings, meeting with legislators (again-virtually) and other interest groups and partners, and handling our bill drafting and bill tracking duties. We will be sending you a weekly legislative update through our actionnetwork.org system at the end of each week of the legislature's 120-day work, so please look for it in your email inbox! This update will also be posted on our website under the "Nevada 81st (2021) Session News" tab (currently under construction) on the website's home page:

<https://www.afscmenvretirees.org/>

We are currently tracking 149 items (bills/budgets and "BDRs"-bill drafts submitted but not turned into bills yet) in the Legislative Counsel Bureau's "PLT" (personalized legislative tracking system). We expect to add more and as session goes on. We will be culling the list also as session goes on-some items will drop off for various reasons-including not making it "out" by several legislative deadlines (120 day legislative calendar here):

[https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Docs/120-day\\_calendar.pdf](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Docs/120-day_calendar.pdf)

PLT will give us a daily schedule every day showing which budgets and bills that we are tracking are scheduled for hearings on that date.

We will also be attending the "public employee coalition" strategy meetings that all PERS eligible public employees' lobbyists are invited to attend as well as any other working groups hosted by legislators and the NV AFL-CIO meetings that are held every session for labor leaders and partners.

If during the session we need to ask for members to "call in" to give public comment we will try and give you as much notice as possible. We will walk you through how to sign up for public comment through the legislature's website. We of course will want to join any actions scheduled by the AFSCME 4041 active employees in solidarity as well. We will also keep you alerted to events that our members might be interested in. We look forward to a productive 81st Legislative Session! Feel free to send us your thoughts and any questions to either Priscilla Maloney directly [maloneypriscilla@gmail.com](mailto:maloneypriscilla@gmail.com) or to the office: [Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com](mailto:Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com)