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# 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP

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## Elections Have Consequences

The undercurrent of the 2015 session was exactly that: elections do have consequences. While for much of the general public, the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the Nevada Legislature began on February 2, for many of Carrara Nevada's clients, and for the staff of Carrara Nevada, the session really began on November 5, the day following the 2014 election cycle. For the first time in nearly 30 years, the Republicans controlled the Assembly, and its impact – from an experience point of view, and from an institutional point of view – would leave many shaking their heads as folks walked out of the building on June 1.

Nevada State  
Assembly Floor  
Session during the  
2015 Legislative  
Session

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The session started as most sessions do – lots of pomp and circumstance, and a lot of newly minted legislators dealing with issues they had never even imagined that they would face as elected leaders of their community. Also injected into the building was a lot of disregard for the process, disregard for the rules of the institution, and a complete breakdown of the civility that had marked sessions of years past. Longtime Senate Majority Leader Bill Raggio and former Speaker Joe Dini would have been aghast at the lack of decorum for the institution. While many thought that a GOP-controlled legislature of both houses and control of all the constitutional offices would bear good and sound public policy for businesses across the state, the feuds between controlling factions rose to the surface – and out in the open to the general public, the press and the lobbying corps – early in the session. For Carrara Nevada clients, that means that we had to maneuver issues less through the public policy discussions, and more through the political bias or, more specifically, the political opinions and feeling of one member versus another. It proved very challenging on some issues – a couple of key client issues were threatened due to personality conflicts within the Legislature. In the end, we were able to achieve the objectives of our clients, and ensure that



Nevada State Capitol

## The feuds between controlling factions rose to the surface – and out in the open.

every piece of legislation we brought into the building on behalf of our clients passed the Legislature – a claim that many of our colleagues cannot boast of with their clients.

Ultimately, Nevada saw its most popular Governor in our history achieve all of his major policy objectives: broadening the tax base; education reform; and pursuit of an expansive education initiative package. We also saw the Legislature end on time, without the need for a special session, a feat that had not been accomplished in many years. While there was always talk of special sessions looming, GOP leadership worked to close the session on time, passing a nearly \$7.4 billion budget, a comprehensive tax package to fund the budget



accordingly, and some historic pieces of legislation which will likely be landmark legislation as history looks back on the 2015 legislative session.

## **Board of Podiatry Agenda and Accomplishments**

This session marked the beginning of a new relationship between Carrara Nevada and the Nevada State Board of Podiatry. From Carrara Nevada's point of view, we could not have been happier. The relationship was tested during the first week of session as a review of pre-filed bills identified several issues pertaining to the Board and its licensees. Several bills, early on in the session, posed a challenge from a licensing point of view. The Lobbying Team, working hand in hand with the Board's Executive Director and leadership, was able to quickly get those issues addressed, and the challenging language removed from those bills (AB89 and SB68).

We also worked closely with the Board to minimize the impact of a bill concerning the state business portal (SB59) and its potential fiscal impact on the Board and its licensees.

AB269, introduced by Assemblyman Brent Jones, posed significant concerns for the Board. This bill would have done away with licensure altogether, unless the governmental entity or regulatory body find there is a public health or safety issue. Carrara Nevada opposed the bill on behalf of the Board, and AB269 failed to make it out of the Legislature.

AB295, introduced by Assemblyman Randy Kirner, amended statute to limit the scope of service that may be performed by providers of wellness services. AB295 failed to reference podiatry as a practice of medicine, so the Lobbying Team worked with Assemblyman Kirner to include podiatry as a practice of medicine through an amendment. This bill becomes law on July 1, 2015.

Finally, SB408 created many challenges for the Board. This bill, brought forth by Senator Pat Spearman, would have created a Board of Naturopathic Medicine, and created a similar license. The Board had some real concerns as it related to their educational requirements for licensure as well as the possibility of complications from their performance of minor procedures. The Lobbying Team worked along side other practices to quietly kill the bill.

All in all, Carrara Nevada appreciates the relationship created with the Board, and is pleased with the achievements from the session on behalf of the Board and its licensees.

## Tracking List

AB 0053	Revises provisions relating to administrative procedure. (BDR 18-160)	Government Affairs	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 160.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=139">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=139</a>				
AB 0059	Revises the authority of the Administrator of the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration regarding leases for certain office rooms for state agencies, boards and commissions. (BDR 27-299)	Government Affairs	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 125.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=145">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=145</a>				
AB 0072	Revises provisions governing state professional licensing boards. (BDR 54-161)	Commerce and Labor	A - (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)	Missed Deadline
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=166">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=166</a>				
AB 0089	Makes various changes to provisions relating to certain professions. (BDR 53-295)	Commerce and Labor	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 546.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=183">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=183</a>				
AB 0135	Revises provisions relating to schedules for the retention and disposal of official state records. (BDR 19-547)	Government Affairs	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 405.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=309">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=309</a>				
AB 0236	Enacts provisions related to the promotion of public engagement by state agencies. (BDR 18-697)	Dina Neal	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 214.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=517">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=517</a>				
AB 0269	Revises provisions governing professional licensing. (BDR 54-899)	Brent Jones	A - (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)	Missed Deadline
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=586">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=586</a>				
AB 0279	Revises provisions concerning controlled substances. (BDR 40-775)	Michael Sprinkle	A - (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)	Missed Deadline
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=603">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=603</a>				

AB 0295	Revises provisions relating to the provision of certain wellness services. (BDR 54-698)	Randy Kirner	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 408.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=639">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=639</a>				
AB 0355	Revises provisions governing administrative regulations. (BDR 18-843)	Michele Fiore	A - (No further action taken.)	Did not pass by sine die
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=776">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=776</a>				
AB 0364	Revises provisions relating to the state business portal. (BDR 7-696)	Tyrone Thompson	A - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 457.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=810">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=810</a>				
AB 0492	Makes various changes to provisions relating to administrative regulations. (BDR 18-1281)	Government Affairs	Senate - (No further action taken.)	Did not pass by sine die
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=1115">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=1115</a>				
SB 0042	Requires the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety to provide investigative services to other divisions of the Department and certain other units of the Executive Department of the State Government. (BDR 43-357)	Transportation	Senate - (No further action taken.)	Did not pass by sine die
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=55">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=55</a>				
SB 0059	Revises provisions relating to the state business portal. (BDR 7-448)	Judiciary	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 521.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=97">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=97</a>				
SB 0068	Revises provisions governing professions. (BDR 54-290)	Commerce, Labor and Energy	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 497.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=112">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=112</a>				
SB 0070	Revises provisions governing meetings of public bodies. (BDR 19-155)	Government Affairs	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 226.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=114">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=114</a>				

SB 0114	Makes changes relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances. (BDR 40-239)	Crescent Hardy	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 311.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=250">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=250</a>				
SB 0288	Revises provisions relating to prescribing controlled substances. (BDR 40-889)	Moises Denis	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 247.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=675">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=675</a>				
SB 0291	Provides for the determination of damage awards in certain civil actions. (BDR 3-951)	Michael Roberson	A - (No further action taken.)	Did not pass by sine die
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=680">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=680</a>				
SB 0292	Revises provisions relating to certain civil actions involving negligence. (BDR 3-954)	Michael Roberson	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 439.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=681">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=681</a>				
SB 0408	Revises provisions relating to naturopathic medicine. (BDR 54-663)	Patricia Spearman	Senate - (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)	Missed Deadline
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=895">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=895</a>				
SB 0492	Revises provisions governing the financial administration of off-highway vehicle titling and registration. (BDR 43-1175)	Finance	Senate - Approved by the Governor. Chapter 482.	Passed
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=1052">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=1052</a>				
SJR 0014	Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to prohibit any agency, board, commission or political subdivision of this State or any local government from creating, operating or maintaining or entering into a contract for the creation, operation or maintenance of a health insurance exchange. (BDR C-1008)	Don Gustavson	Senate - (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)	Missed Deadline
<a href="http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=673">http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/history.cfm?ID=673</a>				