



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update April 21, 2017

Dear Supporter:

Day 103 - Tuesday officially marked the 100th day of the legislative session. This coming Saturday is the day required by rule for sine die adjournment unless leaders extend the deadline. Leadership can extend it no more than 7 days. After that any extension requires a majority vote in each house.

To date, the legislature has passed 199 bills and 175 bills have been signed by the Governor.

There are still roughly 200 bills in the legislative pipeline, and of those 200 bills, over half are awaiting either a final vote in their second chamber or a concurrence vote from their chamber of origin. In other words, once the budget is worked out, the legislature should wrap-up its business within days.

News about the budget continues to trickle out, but we are hearing that most of the budget disagreements have been ironed-out with the House and Senate versions closely aligned. We also continue to hear that the biggest hang-up for consensus pertains to the Governor's proposal to increase bonding capacity for the state's three universities.

The governor unveiled his Executive Budget proposal in January that would provide nearly \$1 billion in new research and development infrastructure, including deferred maintenance projects, for the three schools. This would be accomplished by diverting transaction privilege tax revenues paid by the universities to the tune of almost \$37 million per year to enable a new 30-year bond program.

Many House and Senate members have voiced their opposition to the proposal citing concerns of setting a new precedent for diverting TPT revenues for special projects.

Late last Friday, the Governor signed a second initiative reform measure, and a third may be on its way to his desk very soon. HB2244 requires “strict compliance” with statutory and constitutional initiative requirements. The new law will supersede prior court rulings that require only “substantial compliance” with the initiative requirements.

The third reform bill, SB1236, makes the initiative organizers liable for election law violations committed by petition circulators, prohibits convicted felons from registering as a paid circulator, and requires all paid circulators that receive monetary compensation to obtain for a petition to register with the Secretary of State. The bill passed the full House along party lines last week and is now awaiting a concurrence vote in the Senate.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will soon pick a replacement for outgoing Representative Phil Lovas who recently announced his retirement from the legislature after accepting a position with the Trump administration as the new Regional Advocate in Region IX for the U.S. Small Business Administration. Precinct Committeeman from Legislative District 22 chose Frank Carroll, a Republican PC in the district; John Heep, a former at-large representative on the Maricopa County Community College District; and Ben Toma, a former appointed Peoria City Councilor who lost his re-election in 2014 as possible replacements for Lovas’ seat.

And finally I am pleased to report that AZPPO's proactive bill, [SB1121 \(certified qualified applicators; fingerprinting requirement\)](#) was signed by the Governor this week after passing the House on Monday by a vote of 43 ayes and 15 nays. The bill will go into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great week.

Regards,

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