



## Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update January 23, 2018

Dear Supporter:

**Day 16** – Since last week, 180 bills have been introduced putting this year's bill total to 755 bills introduced since Session began two weeks ago.

An important Session deadline is quickly approaching with next Monday being the last day for Senate bills to be introduced without special permission. February 5th will be the same deadline for House bills.

Following up on his commitment to combat the opioid epidemic, Governor Ducey called for a special legislative session yesterday to strike a deal with lawmakers.

In a press conference, Governor Ducey, along with Democratic and Republican legislators, state health officials, and local elected, law enforcement, community, and non-profit leaders, called the Special Session to provide immediate consideration of legislation combating the opioid epidemic. The Governor's specific policy proposals include:

- Identifying gaps in and improving access to treatment, including for uninsured or underinsured Arizonans, with a new \$10 million investment;
- Expanding access to the overdose reversal drug Naloxone for law enforcement or corrections officers currently not authorized to administer it;
- Holding bad actors accountable by ending pill mills, increasing oversight mechanisms, and enacting criminal penalties for manufacturers who defraud the public about their products;
- Enhancing continuing medical education for all professions that prescribe or dispense opioids;
- Enacting a Good Samaritan law to allow people to call 911 for a potential opioid overdose;
- Cracking down on forged prescriptions by requiring e-prescribing;
- Requiring all pharmacists to check the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program prior to dispensing an opioid or benzodiazepine;

- And limiting the first-fill of an opioid prescription to five days for all opioid naïve patients and limiting dosage levels to align with federal prescribing guidelines. These proposals contain important exemptions to protect chronic pain sufferers, cancer, trauma or burn patients, hospice or end-of-life patients, and those receiving medication assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

As for AZPPO, HB2155 (TPT; services; tuition surcharge), the bill to create a “service tax” for many service industries, including for structural pest control services, has been assigned to both the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Education Committee. Double committee assignments oftentimes signal that a bill was dead on arrival. We don’t anticipate that this bill will move this Session.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

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