

GOODMAN • SCHWARTZ
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 4, 2003

Regional Transportation Passes Senate Finance Committee

Although HB 2292 received an 8-0 vote in the Senate Committee on Finance, concern arose over the election date requirement specified in the amendment adopted by the committee. Specifically, the amendment sets the election date for the one-half cent sales tax proposition as November 2004.

According to testimony, the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) and all involved stakeholders need to retain flexibility on setting an election date to provide a comprehensive multi-modal transportation plan. Senator Dean Martin (R), who sponsored the adopted amendment, stated the election date could be modified if a sufficient transportation plan is provided to the Legislature. The amendment also included provisions to allow money from the Regional Area Road Fund (RARF) to be used toward arterial roads and streets. An annual budget for the TPC must be approved and MAG must approve changes included in all projects.

The committee also clarified that the half-cent sales tax is considered a new tax. This classification results from the new components introduced that were not included in the original 1985 transportation plan. Primarily, this represents the need for a multi-modal transportation plan as a result of continued growth to the valley. The half-cent sales tax will support a comprehensive planning process.

It is anticipated that communications will continue regarding the Transportation Policy Committee and the logistics of the transportation plan throughout the duration of the legislative session.

Week in Review

HB 2292, relating to the regional transportation policy committee, passed out of the Senate Committee on Finance with an 8-0 vote.

SB 1059, relating to the trespassing on critical public service facilities, passed out of the Senate Committee of the Whole (COW).

A Preview for the Week Ahead

Except for the Committee on Appropriations and confirmation hearings on Executive Nominations, legislative committees have completed hearing bills in committee for the remainder of the legislative session.

Both chambers will focus their resources on moving bills through the remainder of the legislative process, as the stampede to adjournment begins.

Comments

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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 4, 2003

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2027	local transportation assistance fund	McClure	Placeholder legislation developed on behalf of the Arizona Transit Association.	Rules		failed in chamber of origin
HB 2288	regional transportation districts	Pierce, Thompson		Transportation, Rules		failed in chamber of origin
HB 2292	NOW: transportation policy committee; regional planning	Pierce, Pearce, Chase, Senator Binder	In order for a county with a population in excess of 1.2 million in population to extend an existing excise tax for transportation, the regional planning agency in a county must establish a Transportation Policy Committee consisting of public and private sector members and legislators. The committee is requires to adopt a comprehensive, multi-modal and coordinated regional transportation plan for the county, including the establishment of priority transportation corridors. Any changes to the adopted regional transportation plan must be approved by the Legislature and the State Transportation Board.	Transportation, Rules	Natural Resources and Transportation, Finance, Rules	passed Senate Finance 8-0, 3/31
HB 2387	older motor vehicles; registration	Pearce, Pierce, Gray, Johnson		Transportation, Environment, Appropriations, Rules		failed in chamber of origin

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
SB 1059	trespass; critical public service facilities	Tibshraeny, Mitchell, Allen, Harper	Prohibits knowingly entering or remaining unlawfully in a critical public service facility and classifies the crime as a class 6 felony. Judiciary Amendment: Specifies trespassing in a critical public service facility constitutes a class 6 felony.	Judiciary, Utilities and Municipalities, rules	Judiciary, Rules	passed House COW, 4/3
SB 1107	ADOT; federal monies; acceptance; expenditures	Binder	Adds tribal governments to the list of entities that the Arizona Department of Transportation may cooperate with for the benefit of transportation purposes.	Transportation, Natural Resources, rules	Natural Resources and Transportation, Rules	held, House Rules, 3/19
SB 1108	vehicle load restrictions; violations; assessments	Binder	Makes changes to the penalties associated with vehicle loads that become loose, detached or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway.	Transportation, Environment, rules	Natural Resources and Transportation, Rules	passed House Trans 8-0, 3/10