

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 14, 2006

AzTA Initiated Legislation is Signed by the Governor

SB 1166, initiated by the Arizona Transit Association, was signed by the Governor (Chapter 84, Laws 2006).

Briefly, the legislation provides public transit systems with the ability to provide service along state routes that meet certain speed, signalization and other safety related criteria.

While the statutory authority will apply statewide, the legislation is intended to benefit rural Arizona communities in which eligible state routes also simultaneously serve as the main thoroughfare for the community.

The legislation will become effective 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session.

Progress Made in Budget Negotiations

As predictable as Arizona's summer monsoons, productive budget negotiations between the House and Senate clearly indicate that the legislative session is beginning to wind down.

A second, and highly visible, indication of the road to adjournment is that bills previously held up in the appropriation process, due largely to fiscal issues, are being scheduled for a

hearing in the Senate Committee on Appropriations for Tuesday, April 18th.

Moreover, at a recent Republican fundraising dinner, Legislative Leaders predicted an early May adjournment of the legislative session.

While it is too early to start predicting, with any real reliability, when the traditional stampede to adjournment will commence, the recent increase in budget talks between the House and Senate are a clear indication that members are looking homeward bound.

A Preview for the Week Ahead

As the deadline has passed for committee hearings, except for the Committees on Appropriations, there are no hearings scheduled for either the House or Senate Committees on Transportation for the week beginning April 17th.

Comments

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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

April 14, 2006

BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
HB 2332	appropriations; highway monies; repayment	McClure and (2)	As introduced, appropriates \$52,215,300 in FY 2006-2007 from the state general fund to the Highway Users Revenue Fund for payment of monies diverted in FY 2004-2005.	Transportation, Appropriations (P), Rules		passed, House Transportation, 1/26
SB 1166	stopping vehicles on highways	Verschoor and (3)	As introduced, permits public transportation service vehicles to stop on specified state highway routes for the purposes of embarking and disembarking passengers. These highways must conform to specified conditions, including: a speed limit that does not exceed forty-five miles per hour, designated and marked stopping locations and signalized intersection controls. AMENDMENT: Permits the Director of ADOT and the appropriate local authority to determine if a pullout or any other method is necessary. AMENDMENT: Requires the local authority to conduct a traffic and engineering study of the proposed location.	Transportation, Rules	Transportation, Rules	Chapter 84, Laws 2006
SB 1278	lottery proceeds; university scholarships	Hale and (10)	As introduced, establishes the Lottery Tuition Fund to pay for a percentage of tuition costs for in-state students who maintain at least 2.5 grade point average and served in the military.		Higher Education, Appropriations, Rules	passed, Senate Higher Education, 2/15
SB 1298	appropriation; highway fund repayment	Flake and (22)	As introduced, appropriates \$63,200,000 from the state General Fund in fiscal year 2006-2007 to the State Highway Fund for repayment of monies diverted last year for Department of Public Safety salaries.		Transportation, Appropriations, Rules	passed, Senate Transportation, 2/7



BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
			AMENDMENT: Inserts "Highway Revenue User Fund" for the referenced "State Highway Fund."			
SB 1466	vehicle license tax reduction	Rios and (25)	As introduced, reduces the vehicle license tax by a percentage (up to 75%) depending on the fuel efficiency of a motor vehicle. Requires the use of General Fund dollars to replace any lost VLT dollars.		Transportation, Appropriations, Finance, Rules	passed, Senate Transportation, 2/14
SB 1521	transportation board; Native American member	Hale and (2)	As introduced, requires that a Native American is a member of the transportation board. AMENDMENT: Changes the Native American member to a representative of a tribal government.		Transportation, Rules	passed, Senate Rules, 3/13