

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Arizona Transit Association

May 12, 2006

Powerball Revenue Having Record Year

According to the Public Transportation Division of the Arizona Department of Transportation, the multi-state lottery game, otherwise known as the Powerball, is having a record year.

Based upon revenues reported through April 2006 for the 2006 fiscal year, it appears that there will be adequate revenue generated to trigger an LTAF II distribution, despite last year's legislative increase in the General Fund threshold to \$37 million, as compared to the statutory amount of \$31 million.

Given the revenue projections available to date, for planning purposes, it is anticipated that the LTAF II statewide distribution will be approximately \$5.3 million (though that number could fluctuate).

The application process will be similar to last year and jurisdictions can reference general information about LTAF II by checking out <http://www.azdot.gov/PTD/STF.asp>.

Legislative Session Meets for the 123rd Day

Despite pre-session predictions for a 100-day legislative session, Arizona Legislature met for the 123rd day this week. Impasses on budget and immigration related issues continue

to dominate the political environment. Complicating matters is the ongoing speculation that it is the Governor's preference to link the budget issues with immigration reform.

On Thursday, legislative leaders were meeting with small groups of legislators to review the proposed budget. Predictably, reaction has been controlled and guarded without much leakage of key fiscal components.

With respect to public transportation related interests, efforts to restore full funding for LTAF II program continue to gain momentum with at least one senior Senator expressing significant optimism that the program will be eligible for full funding in FY 2007.

At this point in the legislative process, with 100 degree temperatures quickly becoming commonplace, it is easier to devise a method to stop perpetual motion than it is to accurately predict a date for adjournment.

Week in Review

There were no public transportation related issues discussed during the week ending May 12th.

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 May 15th.

Comments

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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

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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



BILL	TITLE	SPONSORS	SUMMARY	HOUSE COMMITTEES	SENATE COMMITTEES	ACTION
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. AMENDMENT: Inserts "Highway Revenue User Fund" for the referenced "State Highway Fund."		Transportation, Appropriations, Rules	passed, Senate Transportation, 2/7
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