



AzTA *ADVOCACY*

Weekly Legislative Report

April 13, 2018

The pace quickened a bit at the Arizona Legislature this week, as budget negotiations in both houses appeared to be producing results, and word began circulating that the 2018 session could begin to wrap up in the next two weeks. Regardless of the exact timing of *sine die* adjournment, both houses are moving bills at a fairly consistent pace, likely signaling that budget bills will soon be introduced.

Today was Day 96 of the session. The 100-day mark, the traditional target for adjournment, is April 17. The Legislature will almost certainly not be finished by that date, as only today there were announcements by both Governor Ducey and House Speaker J.D. Mesnard of different proposals to provide significant public school teacher pay raises in coming years. Action on potential raises for public school teachers is therefore now positioned as being the issue most likely (maybe along with school safety/gun proposals) to extend the session, as there are vastly different legislator opinions on the appropriate amount of any raises, if any.

Several bills of interest to AzTA remain active in the process. A summary of some of the more noteworthy measures is as follows:

SB 1147 (county excise tax for transportation), introduced by Sen. Bob Worsley (R-Mesa), Chair of the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee, states that the board of supervisors of any county would be permitted to submit to the voters a transportation plan funded by an excise tax. SB 1147 passed the full Senate in late February with a strong vote of 24-6. The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee approved the bill on a unanimous 7-0 vote, and the House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill on a 5-4 vote, with numerous amendments. In addition, a strike everything amendment to HB 2162 on the same subject was approved by the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee. Both bills now move to the respective Rules Committees. Speaker J.D. Mesnard hosted a

significant stakeholder meeting on SB 1147 last week, and it appears that bill will continue to move through the process, with additional amendments a strong possibility. Discussions with various stakeholders and legislators have continued this week.

HB 2514 (HURF distribution; cities; towns; counties) states that the Department of Transportation would allocate \$18 million from revenues of the HURF fund in the next fiscal year to small counties and municipalities. Of the \$18 million one-time transfer, \$9 million would be distributed to counties with a population of less than 250,000 persons and \$9 million would be distributed to municipalities with a population of less than 7,500 persons. The Senate Transportation and Technology Committee approved the bill, and the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the bill on March 29 on a party-line vote. It now heads to the Senate Rules Committee, though it has not yet appeared on an agenda for that committee, which could be a sign of disfavor from Senate leadership.

There has been no change to the status of SB 1146 and HB 2166 (vehicle fees; alternative fuel VLT), which would each allow the Director of ADOT to establish a per-vehicle fee to cover the cost of funding the Highway Patrol division of DPS, and would also repeal the VLT exemption for alternative fuel vehicles. The bills are designed to effectively eliminate the HURF “sweeps” that have been ongoing for a number of years. Both bills have stalled in the Senate, though there is speculation there is a plan to move the bills forward in some fashion prior to adjournment of the session.

HB 2243 (wrong-way driving; violation; DUI) establishes criminal penalties for driving the wrong way on a “controlled access highway” and for the same offense if the person is driving under the influence. The bill passed the Senate last week on a vote of 27-3 and was signed by Governor Ducey on March 27 (Chapter 81, Laws 2018).

These issues are being tracked in our on-line legislative tracking service, which you can access [here](#) for automatically-updated AzTA bill information, with our comments in red.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

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