



AzTA *ADVOCACY*

Weekly Legislative Report

February 23, 2018

The 53rd Arizona Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, has reached its traditional “halfway” mark, with 1,165 bills having been introduced. The week was dominated by action on the floor of the House and Senate, with limited committee action. The majority of bills have now left their house of origin, and the process of hearing legislation in committee will begin again next week, with House bills being heard in Senate committees, and vice versa.

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 Senate Transportation and Technology Committee with a unanimous vote several weeks ago, and this week passed the full Senate with a strong vote of 24-6. The bill now moves to the House for its consideration.

HB 2514 (HURF distribution; cities; towns; counties) states that, beginning in FY2019-20, the Department of Transportation would allocate \$18 million from revenues of the HURF fund to small counties and municipalities. Of the \$18 million, \$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 bill was approved by the full House on a vote of 36-20, with a significant amendment added that makes the \$18 million distribution a one-time event, repeals the law in 2020 and adds a legislative intent clause.

Sen. Worsley has also moved SB 1146 (vehicle fees; alternative fuel VLT) onto the Senate floor, where it will have a full vote next week. The measure would 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.

Two bills of interest concerning behavior while driving are still alive in the process, though one appears to be stalled. HB 2243 (wrong-way driving; violation; DUI) establishes 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 was approved by the full House on a vote of 38-21 and now moves to the Senate Transportation Committee and the Judiciary Committee. SB 1261, the texting-while-driving bill from Sen. Steve Farley, passed the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee on a unanimous vote, but has not moved any further in the process.

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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