



AzTA *ADVOCACY*

Weekly Legislative Report

February 9, 2018

The 53rd Arizona Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, is a week away from its traditional “halfway” point, with a total of 1,164 bills having been introduced. The bill filing deadlines in both the House and Senate have been reached, meaning that other than budget bills and those introduced with special permission, no further bills will be brought forward in the 2018 General Session. The next key deadline is next Friday, February 16, the final day for bills to be heard in their “house of origin.” Next week’s committee agendas will be full of bills trying to stay alive in the legislative process.

Two bills the continue to be of interest are SB 1147 and HB 2165 (title of both, “county excise tax for transportation”), introduced by Sen. Bob Worsley (R-Mesa) and Rep. Noel Campbell (R-Prescott), respectively, who are the chairs of the Senate and House Transportation Committees. Each bill 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. However, HB 2165 is now dead for the session, having been defeated last week. Rep. Campbell had considered asking for a “reconsideration” vote this week, but ultimately abandoned that effort. Fortunately, SB 1147 passed the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee last week with a unanimous vote, and will be considered by the full Senate next week. We expect a close vote on the floor, and will keep you apprised.

HB 2166 (vehicle fees; alternative fuel VLT), also sponsored by Rep. Campbell, was assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and would do two things: (1) repeal the separate VLT classification for alternative fuel vehicles, and (2) permit the Director of ADOT to set a fee designed to fund the cost of DPS Highway Patrol functions. There is a companion bill in the Senate, SB 1146, with identical language. We will continue to monitor these bills in the coming weeks. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved HB 2166 this week on a vote of 7-1, while SB 1146 passed the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee on a unanimous vote. Next stop for both bills are the respective Rules Committees, before heading to the floor.

Rep. David Cook (R-Globe) has introduced HB 2514 (HURF distribution; cities; towns; counties), which 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 will be heard in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Valentine's Day.

There are a number of other pieces of legislation concerning LTAF, HURF, fuel taxes, texting while driving and general ADOT revisions. Many of these bills have little chance at passage (with the exception of the ADOT bill, SB 1287, that is mostly technical changes), though we will continue to watch them for movement.

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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