



# AzTA *ADVOCACY*

## Weekly Legislative Report

February 2, 2018

The 53rd Arizona Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, proceeded forward this week, with a total of 1,049 bills now introduced. Monday was the final day for introduction of Senate bills, while this coming Monday, February 5, is the final day for introduction of House bills. The week featured the dramatic expulsion of Rep. Don Shooter (R-Yuma) from the House of Representatives for his repeated acts of sexual harassment and other behaviors. The emotional expulsion vote was yesterday, and he was removed from office by a vote of 56-3.

The other key deadline looming is February 16, the final day for bills to be heard in their “house of origin.” Committee agendas in the next two weeks will be full as bills make their way through the process.

Bills that have been introduced of direct interest to AzTA:

Two bills in the process 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. The board would be required to present the issue on the ballot as a single question for approval of both the transportation plan and the tax. HB 2165 was heard this week by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and unfortunately failed to pass on a vote of 4-4. The bill faces an uncertain fate in the House at this point. Fortunately, SB 1147 passed the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee with a unanimous vote. Next stop is the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 2166 (vehicle fees; alternative fuel VLT), also sponsored by Rep. Campbell, has been assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and would repeal the separate VLT classification for alternative fuel vehicles. There is a companion bill in the Senate, SB 1146, with identical language. We will continue to monitor and analyze these bills in the coming weeks. HB 2166 will be heard in the House Transportation Committee next week, on Wednesday, February 7, with SB 1146 being heard in the Senate Transportation

Sen. Steve Farley (D-Tucson) has also introduced two bills concerning Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF) restoration (SB 1024) and restored Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) funding (SB 1025). These are similar to bills he has introduced in recent years without success. SB 1024 would establish the LTAF fund, and require the Legislature to appropriate an amount necessary to provide that the total monies available in LTAF for each fiscal year equal \$20.5 million. SB 1025 states that revenues in HURF are required to be spent only for the construction or maintenance of transportation infrastructure. Both bills have been assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee, though neither has been scheduled for a hearing.

There are a number of other pieces of legislation concerning 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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