

# AzTA *ADVOCACY*

## Weekly Legislative Report

January 12, 2018

The 53rd Arizona Legislature, 1st Regular Session, officially began Monday, January 8 with Governor Doug Ducey giving his fourth State of the State address to the Legislature. He spent considerable time discussing his plans for increased funding for public education, tackling the state's opioid crisis, a renewed emphasis on public safety for transportation concerns, and his continued efforts to help grow Arizona's economy through decreased regulation on business and a welcoming climate for new and existing companies.

The Governor's State Budget proposal will be released to the public today and will be watched closely for his proposals on education, child safety and transportation, among many other areas. In the transportation area, we will be looking for areas of new or renewed funding, particularly funds that could be used for public transit services.

As of today, about 475 bills have been filed, a good number of them being technical correction bills, or bills to be used later as "vehicles" for unrelated amendments. Though it's still early in the process, one deadline was reached, as House members are after yesterday only permitted to file seven additional bills. Before yesterday, representatives could introduce an unlimited amount of bills. The Senate deadlines come in the next few weeks, and senators are not limited in their number of total bills introduced.

Two bills of direct interest so far 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. Neither bill has yet been assigned to a committee.

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.

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.

Becky Miller  
AzTA Executive Director  
602.550.3265  
[bmiller@azta.org](mailto:bmiller@azta.org)

*AzTA is a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to improving public transportation in all Arizona communities.*



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Our mailing address is: 3104 East Camelback Road #932, Phoenix, AZ 85016

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