

Week of February 24 - 28, 2014



Legislative Update

General Issues

February 28th was the 47th day of the 51st Legislature, Second Regular Session. 1186 bills have been introduced.

The big news of the week was the veto of SB 1062 by Governor Brewer. A copy of the Governor's veto letter is attached.

This week was also the last week to hear bills in a committee in the house of origin. As a result, hundreds of bills died due to lack of action.

Scottsdale Legislation

SB 1152 – Transportation Safety Zones; Passenger Areas – SB 1152 will allow a city or town to establish two Transportation Safety Zones for the purpose of relieving traffic congestion. Inside a Transportation Safety Zone, a city or town council may establish dedicated traffic lanes for use by taxis, limousines, passenger carts, and other for-hire vehicles for the express purpose of picking up and dropping off passengers. Additionally, a city or town council may establish Passenger Convenience Areas where for-hire vehicles may temporarily park to wait for passengers. The Chairman of the Senate Public Safety Committee, Senator Chester Crandell (Heber) has agreed to be the sponsor of the bill. ***Update:*** I am working on an amendment that was requested by the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Status: *SB 1152 was introduced by Senator Chester Crandell and passed the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 4th with a vote of 6-0-1. The bill will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday March 3rd.*

HB 2387 - Street Light Improvement Districts – This legislation will allow for the transfer of jurisdiction of county operated Street Light Improvement Districts (SLIDs) to a municipal SLID by a public vote of a city or town council. This will facilitate the transfer of approximately 40 SLIDs that are in Scottsdale's boundaries but are still being operated and maintained by Maricopa County. Representative Michelle Ugenti has agreed to sponsor the bill.

Status: *HB 2387 was introduced by Representative Ugenti and passed unanimously out of the House Government Committee on Tuesday, January 28th. HB 2387 passed out of the House of Representatives on February 24th with a vote of 59-0. It has been transmitted to the Senate for further consideration.*

Legislative Update

Economic Vitality

HB 2547- Major Event Public Safety Reimbursement – HB 2547 would establish the *Major Event Public Safety Reimbursement Fund* to reimburse the host community for the extra expense of providing public safety personnel and equipment that is directly attributable to a major Arizona event such as the Super Bowl. **The bill was amended to reduce transfer from the State General Fund to the Public Safety Reimbursement Fund from \$4 million to \$2 million. In addition, the amendment adds a one-year sunset provision and creates a study committee to examine the effects of the bill’s provisions after the Super Bowl event.** Only public safety personnel and equipment costs directly associated with the major event are eligible for reimbursement. The bill provides a narrow definition of “major event” that states the event must exceed 14,000 attendees and must be bid upon and awarded through a formalized competitive process.

Status: *HB 2547 was introduced by Majority Leader David Gowan (Sierra Vista) and passed the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee on February 19th with a vote of 6-1.*

Recommended Action: *Neutral*

SB 1174 – Strike-everything: Aviation Registration; Taxation – The strike-everything to SB 1174 makes numerous changes to aircraft registration and taxes. Advocates of the bill see it as a mechanism to boost economic activities for the aviation industry and related businesses.

Status: *The strike-everything to SB 1174 was proposed by Senator Al Melvin (Tucson) and passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on February 25 with a vote of 8-1.*

Recommended Action: *Watch. The bill still has many undetermined changes to taxes and fees which are expected to be negotiated by stakeholders if the bill continues in the process.*

Local Governance

HB 2528 – Municipalities; Regulations; Sign Walkers – HB 2528 would prohibit a municipality from adopting any regulation that would restrict a sign walker from using public sidewalks, walkways, or pedestrian thoroughfares. The bill also provides for enforcement by private civil action against a municipality that violates these provisions.

Status: *HB 2528 was introduced by Representative Warren Petersen (Gilbert) and is cosponsored by Representative Bob Robson (Chandler). HB 2528 passed the House Government Committee on February 18th with a vote of 9-0. The bill will likely be heard in the Committee of the Whole in the upcoming week.*

Recommended Action: *Pending*

Legislative Update

HB 2152 – Fire District Annexations – HB 2152 specifies required actions for changing fire district, community park maintenance district, and sanitary district boundaries that may affect or include a portion of a municipality. In addition, the bill requires a fire district to provide notice to the clerk of any municipality included in a mandatory impact statement accompanying a boundary proposal and allows such municipality to return comments to the district governing body within 20 days, instead of 10 days, of receiving notice. It also prohibits a fire district from annexing an area within the boundaries of a planning area of a municipality who has adopted a resolution disapproving the annexation.

Status: *HB 2152 was introduced by Representative Eddie Farnsworth (Gilbert) and passed the House Government Committee on February 18th with a vote of 8-0.*

Recommended Action: *Support*

Public Safety

SB 1158 – Strike-everything: Fireworks; Permissible Use – The strike-everything amendment to SB 1158 will require cities and towns in Maricopa and Pima counties to allow for the sale and use of consumer fireworks during the periods of the Fourth of July and New Year's. The bill makes these provisions optional for the remaining 13 counties.

Status: *The strike-everything amendment to SB 1158 passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Wednesday, February 19th with a vote of 6-0. The strike-everything amendment was proposed by Senator Chester Crandell (Heber).*

Recommended Action: *Oppose*

Water Resources

HB 2117- Strike-everything: Water Softeners; Salinity – The strike-everything amendment to HB 2117 would place new standards on the sale and installation of water softeners. More specifically the bill stipulates that all regenerated ion exchange water softeners installed in this state must be installed to operate at maximum levels of efficiency for their design and prohibits the sale or installation of time-clock regenerated ion exchange water softeners. The bill also prohibits a person from installing an ion exchange water softener that is connected to a water supply that has total dissolved solids of 750 milligrams per liter or less unless the softener meets specified salinity performance standards.

Status: *The Strike-everything amendment to HB 2117 was introduced by Representative Karen Fann (Prescott) and passed the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Committee on February 17th with a vote of 6-0.*

Recommended Action: *Neutral.*

Legislative Update

Forest Health

[HB 2343](#) – **Strike-everything: Forest Health Management** – The strike-everything amendment to HB 2343 will require the State Land Commissioner in coordination with the State Forester to develop and adopt best land management practices to decrease the severity of wildfires through forest health management on state lands. The bill stipulates the management criteria which includes climate conditions, pest infestations, forest overgrowth, and federal land management policies. The bill will also appropriate \$1.8 million from the state general fund for forest thinning activities.

Status:

The strike-everything was proposed by Representative John Kavanagh (Fountain Hills) and was adopted and passed the House Appropriations Committee on February 26th. The underlying bill was introduced by Representative Brenda Barton (Payson).

Recommended Action:

Support. *The provisions of the strike-everything amendment are consistent with the City of Scottsdale's 2014 State Legislative Agenda on Forest Health.*