



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update January 16, 2017

Dear Supporter:

Here we go again! The 53rd Legislature, 1st Regular Session has officially commenced. To date, 419 bills have been introduced by lawmakers. While that certainly sounds like a lot of bills, it is still well short of our average session load of 1,200 or so proposed new laws. Over the next few weeks, as lawmakers continue to introduce new bills, we will get a better sense of any proposed legislation that will have a direct or indirect impact on AZPPO members.

[Senator Gail Griffin](#) (R-Hereford) has agreed once again to run proactive legislation on behalf of AZPPO to require fingerprint clearance cards for all qualified applicators. Senator Griffin has indicated that she expects to introduce the bill sometime this week.

Last Monday, before a joint session between the House of Representatives and the Senate, Governor Doug Ducey announced his policy priorities for the year during his [annual state-of-the-state address](#).

The Governor's plan included:

- Outlining a 15-point plan to improve the state's education standing by increasing funding in many key areas.
- Asking the legislature to approve licensing fee waivers for low-income Arizonans who complete technical training;
- Seeking an additional year of general relief welfare checks for people actively seeking work or caring for children who regularly attending school, known as TANF;
- Removing Arizona from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals;

Announcing his goal to eliminate 500 total regulations in 2017 by asking business owners to make suggestions on what regulations should be eliminated via his new web site [RedTape.AZ.gov](#).

Other priorities include: plans to reduce the state's recidivism rates, to create a "grandmother stipend" to provide assistance for family members acting as foster parents, and to require all doctors to complete Continuing Education in drug addiction.

On Friday, the Governor released his proposed [FY2018 State Budget](#) which provided more detail on his education agenda:

- **\$165 million** in FY2018 for education
 - \$114 million for K-12
 - \$52 million for universities
 - **\$17 million** for school facilities board building renewal
 - **\$13.6 million** for teacher pay raises and \$68 million over the next five years
 - **\$10 million** in FY2018 and \$50 million over the next three years for all-day kindergarten
 - **\$6.4 million** for \$1,000 signing bonuses to attract teachers to low income schools
 - **\$5 million** in FY 2018 to expand broadband rural school districts and charter schools
 - **\$1 million** for JTED completion grants
 - **\$250,000** to double an existing STEM teacher loan forgiveness program

Other notable budget expenditures include:

- **\$2.8 million** to extend 12 months of additional cash assistance, known as TANF;
- **\$1.2 million** to completely eliminate the backlog of untested sexual assault kits
- **\$500,000** to the Department of Corrections for substance abuse counselors and a re-entry planner, and \$1.5 million for the Department of Forestry to create a post-release fire crew.

The \$9.8 billion FY2018 Budget includes \$176 million in new spending initiatives including \$97 million in one-time spending and \$83 million in ongoing spending. Over the course of the next couple of months, the Governor's office will be negotiating with House and Senate members until the final budget package is passed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great week.

Regards,

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