



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update March 3, 2017

Dear Supporter:

Day 54 - We have reached the halfway point in Session! Since it is now March, we are eyeing our next critical deadline of March 24, as that is the last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills. In other words, all bills must clear Committee (except Appropriations and Rules) in the second chamber by March 24. While that date is still a few weeks away, folks at the Capitol often dread that particular week as committee agendas are packed and hearings often last through the night. It also happens to be right around the time the State Budget negotiations really heat up. And speaking of the Budget, we keep hearing that the negotiations will begin anytime now, but up until this point we haven't seen or heard anything in terms of budget proposals.

In response to recent ballot initiatives, including the recent minimum wage increase enacted by voters in November, lawmakers continue to push measures aimed at limiting future citizen initiatives. [HB2404](#), the bill that prohibits a person from paying or receiving money based upon the number of signatures collected for an initiative, is now making its way through the Senate after passing the House last week.

A second proposal ([HCR2029](#)), introduced by Representative Don Shooter, would require each of the state's 30 legislative districts to contribute signatures of 10% of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election in *each* district for any future initiative. Currently, in order to place a statewide measure on the ballot, a petitioner must gather signatures of 10% of the total votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election with no requirement on how many signatures must be collected in specific district. If approved by the legislature, HCR2029 would be placed on the 2018 ballot.

And finally, a bill that has received national attention seems to have finally met its fate earlier this week after Speaker J.D. Mesnard refused to hear the bill. [SB1142 \(riot; planning; participation; racketeering\)](#) would have added "rioting" to the list of offenses that could have been pursued under racketeering statutes and would have expanded the definition of rioting to include "damage to the property of another person." Many viewed the bill as a response to the recent organized protests in Washington D.C. as a result of the presidential election. Speaker Mesnard noted that bill could be construed as an attempt to suppress citizen's First Amendment right to assemble.

Earlier this week, the Department of Agriculture reached out to us regarding **AZPPO's proactive bill**, [SB1121 \(certified qualified applicators; fingerprinting requirement\)](#). The bill was originally scheduled to be heard yesterday in Committee; however, the Department asked us to consider some amendments so we decided to hold the bill. We will be meeting with the Department to discuss their proposed amendments on Monday. The bill likely be heard next Thursday or the following Thursday. SB1121, as introduced, will require fingerprint clearance cards for all qualified applicators.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great week.

Regards,

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