



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update February 2, 2018

Dear Supporter:

Day 26 – What a week. In perhaps the biggest news to hit the Capitol in quite some time, lawmakers, in nearly a unanimous vote, expelled Rep. Don Shooter (R-Yuma) from the Arizona House of Representatives for his "dishonorable" behavior after an investigation determined he sexually harassed several women during his time at the Capitol. This was the first time in nearly thirty years that a member was removed from the Capitol by fellow lawmakers.

The Yuma County Board of Supervisors will soon choose Rep. Shooter's replacement.

In other news...

Today is the last day for House members to submit bill requests to Legislative Council, and Monday will be the last day for House bills to be introduced without special permission. The similar deadline in the Senate occurred last week. Meaning, come Monday, we can breathe a little easier as the bill introductions will be mostly over with for this year's Session.

I say mostly because the appropriations bills (i.e. budget bills) won't be introduced until we get closer to the end of the Session. The deadlines also don't take into account "strike-everything amendments." Strike-everything amendments are amendments that delete the entire text of an existing bill and substitute new language, essentially making a new, completely different bill. These types of amendments are oftentimes used as vehicles to circumvent the aforementioned deadlines.

As for AZPPO...

There is no update on [SB1373 \(prohibition; pesticides\)](#), the bill that would prohibit the sale or use of the pesticides clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam in Arizona or HB2145 ([TPT; services; tuition surcharge](#)), the bill to create a "service tax" for many service industries, including for structural pest control services. Both bills have yet to be scheduled for a hearing.

I do however want to update you on the Governor's proposed budget. Included

in his budget are [several fund sweeps within the Department of Agriculture](#) (Page 446), including a \$2.1 million sweep of the Pest Management Trust Fund. The sweep would drain most of the balance of the fund which sits at roughly \$2.8 million.

The budget also includes other fund sweeps with the Department, including: the Agriculture Commercial Feed Fund, the Pesticide Fund, the Seed Law Fund, and the Fertilizers Materials Fund totaling \$1.1 million. In total, the Governor is proposing nearly \$76 million in fund sweeps between all of the state agencies.

We are in the process of gathering more information about the proposed fund sweep. We have also met with Senator Gail Griffin and informed her of the sweep, and we will be meeting with other members and stakeholders to address our concerns.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

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