



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update February 23, 2018

Dear Supporter:

Day 47- We are now nearly seven weeks into the 2018 legislative session. After last week's committee deadline, legislators spent the majority of their time this week working to get House bills transferred to the Senate and Senate bills to the House. This meant long hours of debate and voting on the floor for Senators and House members alike. March 23, will be the last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills.

In addition to the hours spent on the floor this week, state legislators are also beginning to shift some focus onto the next major hurdle of the legislative session: the state budget. On Tuesday legislators and officials from Governor Doug Ducey's office met for the first time in the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The budget approval process involves tough negotiations between the Governor's office and the Legislature to determine the financial priorities of the state for 2019. Budget considerations will be an increasing topic of discussion from now until the end of the 2018 legislative session.

Speaking of the budget, we are in the process of scheduling meetings with the Governor's office and key members of the House Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee as well as members from each chamber's Appropriations committees to discuss the sweep of the Pest Management Fund.

Last week we met with the Department of Agriculture to discuss the proposed \$2.1 million sweep of the Fund. We expressed our deep concerns with the sweep especially in light of the fact that the Fund is in Trust and should not be subject to such a sweep.

Good news on SB1373 (prohibition; pesticides), the bill that would prohibit the sale or use of the pesticides clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam in Arizona and HB2145 (TPT; services; tuition surcharge), the bill to create a "service tax" for many service industries, including for structural pest control services. Both bills failed to receive committee hearings last week and accordingly both bills are officially dead.

Now that these two bills are dead, we will be focusing our efforts on the Fund

sweep.
Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

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