



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update April 5, 2018

Dear Supporter:

Day 89 - We are now less than two weeks away from the 100th day of the 2018 Second Regular Session. By rule, the legislature is required adjourn Sine Die by Saturday April 21st, however legislative leadership often grants special permission to extend the session in week long increments when necessary. Regardless of extensions, the legislature does its best to get bills and the budget through the process as close to this deadline as possible. As of today, 189 bills have passed the legislature and 130 have been signed by the Governor.

With the 100-day mark quickly approaching many legislators, and the Governor have their eyes keenly fixed on the state budget. This year, the issue of the budget has come under serious scrutiny as demands for education reform have grown louder and louder throughout the session. Arizona teachers are now demanding a 20% pay increase along with other funding increases that could total in the billions of dollars. These demands, as well as major considerations in water policy and school safety may slow the budget approval process. For today the state budget is a waiting game.

As Sine Die nears we continue to watch closely as the budget and bills see their final push to the Governors desk.

As for AZPPO, we are hearing very positive news regarding the State Budget and the proposed fund sweeps. At this point, we have been told by those who have direct knowledge that the Pest Management Trust Fund is safe and it is not included in the House's list of fund sweeps. The House will likely include roughly \$84 million in fund sweeps (nearly \$45 million less than what the Governor proposed) in their budget proposal, and again, the Pest Management Trust Fund is not included in that list. Keep in mind, this could change from now until the end of session especially in light of the recent teacher protests regarding their pay and the even more recent discussions of providing funding for school safety measures, but nevertheless, this is a really positive development. sweep.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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