



Arizona Pest Professional Organization Legislative Update February 3, 2017

Dear Supporter:

Day 26 – We are almost to a critical deadline with next Friday being the last day for House bills to be introduced without special permission. As you recall, the past Monday was the last day for Senate bills to be introduced. In other words, we are only seven days away from knowing the full extent of proposed new laws for this year's Session!

At Governor Ducey's annual state-of-the-state address, he called for the removal of Arizona from the U.S. 9th Circuit of Appeals in order to relieve the backlog of cases and ultimately seek a court system that is more in line with the state's politics. Congressman Andy Biggs has introduced [H.R. 250](#), a bill that would divide the current 9th Circuit and create a new 12th Circuit Court of Appeals. The newly established 12th Circuit would include Arizona, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada, and would leave California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands in the 9th Circuit. This past Thursday Senator Jeff Flake introduced a similar bill ([S. 276](#)) in the Senate.

Lawmakers have once again reopened a contentious issue related to certain school funding sources. [SB1174](#) introduced by Senator Debbie Lesko requires any "desegregation funding" for school districts to be approved by voters going forward. Current state law allows a school district to budget and levy an additional property tax (without voter approval) above and beyond the tax used for regular maintenance and operations for expenses incurred for any measures or activities designed to remediate alleged or proven racial discrimination. This budget authority is typically referred to as desegregation funding. Currently 19 out of the more than 200 school districts receive the funding. Proponents of the legislation argue that the original 1985 law was never intended to last this long. The bill narrowly passed committee (6-4-0-0) on Tuesday and will likely continue to be a contentious issue going forward.

AZPPO's proactive bill, [SB1121 \(certified qualified applicators; fingerprinting requirement\)](#), unanimously passed the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee on Monday. SB1121 will require fingerprint clearance cards for all qualified applicators. The bill should receive a Rules Committee hearing next week.

HB2242 (animal cruelty; domestic animals; classification) introduced by Rep. Eddie Farnsworth passed the House Rules Committee. The bill expands the current offense of animal cruelty to include: a) intentionally or knowingly subjecting a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment, or b) killing a domestic animal without legal privilege or the consent of the owner. We will be discussing the bill at the next AZPPO legislative committee.

And finally, Senator Juan Mendez has once again introduced a bill (SB1498: pesticides; prohibition) to ban the sale or use of pesticides clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam in the state of Arizona. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee chaired by Senator Gail Griffin. We have already met with Senator Griffin on the bill, and we have the sense that the bill will likely be held in committee.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great week.

Regards,

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