

Arizona Legislative Update

January 7, 2022

Session Update

The 2022 legislative session will begin on Monday, January 10th and is scheduled to last 100 days pursuant to House and Senate Rules. Despite a significant rise in COVID cases recently, Governor Ducey will give his final State of the State address in person at the House of Representatives. Ducey will be the first governor since Governor Babbitt (1978 - 1987) to give an 8th State of the State address. Over the past half-century, nearly every governor has either left office early or attained the office through the line of succession, so if all goes according to plan, Governor Ducey will be the first governor to be elected and serve his full term since Governor Williams (who left office in 1975).

Given that this is an election year, there will be a push for a short session, especially given that legislators will be running in new districts. Several complicating factors work against that goal, including the recent Arizona Supreme Court ruling that the Legislature violated the single-subject requirement of the Arizona Constitution by log-rolling unrelated policy measures into the budget reconciliation bills (BRBs). Not only does that ruling mean that four parts of the BRBs from the 2021 budget were invalid (which some members want to remedy immediately while others oppose those efforts), but it also complicates reaching consensus on a budget this session. Revenues continue to far exceed projections, and it appears the Legislature will be working with an extra \$1.3 to \$1.7 billion in one-time spending and \$700 million in ongoing spending. High-profile feuds between two Republican senators (Ugenti-Rita and Boyer) and President Fann, as well as ongoing problems between a few Republican senators (Townsend and Ugenti-Rita) will delay a budget consensus, and will also hold up key Republican priority legislation. Efforts are already underway to negotiate with moderate Democrats in anticipation of Republican holdouts (but that tactic has complications of its own).

The 2022 session will begin with an unprecedented number of new members in a non-election year following 13 resignations and one death since the end of last session. Two House members (Stahl-Hamilton and Teran) moved from the House to the Senate, but the other replacements are all brand new members (11 total). Senator Peshlakai just announced her resignation (to join the Biden administration) last week. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors met yesterday and unanimously named Theresa Hatathlie and she will be sworn in on Monday. Hatathlie is a former member of the Dine College Board of Regents and currently works as a logistics coordinator and legislative liaison and logistics coordinator for the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund. The changes have caused significant shake-ups to committees as well, including a few new committee chairs (i.e., Sen. Townsend will chair Senate Government and Rep. Blackman will chair House Judiciary). While there are unique and challenging dynamics surrounding every new legislative session, the 2022 session looks to be contentious, lengthy and turbulent. The only glimmer of hope for a shorter session is that the primary election will be on August 2nd and legislators cannot raise funds from lobbyists during session.

Legislative Session Timeline

JANUARY

- 10** Session begins. Bill pre-filing ends.
- 13** 5:00 PM: House limit of 7 bills per member is imposed.
- 18** 5:00 PM: Last day for Senate members to submit bill requests to Legislative Council.
- 31** 5:00 PM: Last day for Senate bills to be introduced without special permission.

FEBRUARY

- 4** 5:00 PM: Last day for House members to submit bill requests to Legislative Council.
- 7** 5:00 PM: Last day for House bills to be introduced without special permission.
- 18** Last day for House consideration of House bills and Senate consideration of Senate bills.

MARCH

- 25** Last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills.

APRIL

- 15** Last day for conference committees.
- 19** 100th day of session.
- 23** Saturday of the week of the 100th day of session. This is the date required by rule for sine die adjournment unless leaders extend the deadline. Leadership can extend it no more than 7 days; thereafter any extension requires a majority vote in each house.
- 30** Session cannot extend beyond this date without majority vote in both houses

Hearings for Bills of Relevance to MWCUA

No hearings are scheduled for bills of relevance to MWCUA.

Bills of Potential Relevance to MWCUA

HB 2043 (employer liability; COVID-19 vaccine requirement).

Sponsor: Rep. Nguyen

HB 2047 (student loan services; licensure).

Sponsor: Rep. Salman

HB 2048 (student loan servicers; licensure).

Sponsor: Rep. Salman

SB 1048 (emergency powers; business closure; repeal).

Sponsor: Sen. Petersen

SB 1052 (medical procedures; prohibitions).

Sponsor: Sen. Townsend

SB 1053 (religious exemption; vaccine; violation; classification).

Sponsor: Sen. Townsend

SB 1072 (tech correction; bank deposits).

Sponsor: Sen. Fann

SB 1092 (product liability; civil action; limitation).

Sponsor: Sen. Leach

SCM 1001 (financial institutions; burdensome reporting requirements).

Sponsor: Sen. Leach

SM 1001 (financial institutions; burdensome reporting requirements).

Sponsor: Sen. Leach

Recent Action

There has been no legislative action.