

# Legislative Link Update

May 7, 2021

Today is the 117<sup>th</sup> day of session and to date, 366 bills have passed the legislature. Of those 366 bills, 332 have been signed, 4 have been vetoed, and the remaining 30 await action by Governor Ducey.

There was very little House and Senate floor activity this week, but we did have the chance to meet with legislators who represent our city. The discussions continue to be centered on resolving differences with the state's interest in establishing a 2.5% income flat tax. The flat tax, once fully implemented, would result in a \$9.5 million decrease in state funding if there were no new economic growth. It is likely that resolving this issue will result in the legislature quickly completing an FY22 budget and adjourning Sine Die for the session.

Below are updates on a few bills that we believe may be of interest to you:

## **HB 2682 Tobacco Products; Vapor Products; Retail Sales**

A vaping bill backed by the tobacco industry is moving forward in the Arizona Legislature after years of stalemates. For the past few years, the tobacco industry and a coalition of health care organizations have put forth dueling bills to regulate electronic cigarettes, one backed by most Republican lawmakers and the other by a united front of Democrats and a handful of Republicans. Neither managed to gather enough support to pass both chambers. Yesterday, May 6, HB2682 passed out of the Senate 18-10. The vaping measure, which now returns to the House for a final vote, would prevent cities and counties from regulating stores that sell tobacco and vapor products.

## **SB 1532 Impeding School Operations; Civil Liability**

SB 1532 establishes new accountability criteria for educators who don't present both sides of controversial science or events. The bill also precludes instruction that one race, ethnic group or sex is "inherently morally or intellectually superior to another." SB 1532 prohibits teaching that any individual bears responsibility for actions committed by others of the same race, ethnic group or sex. Educators who violate this law is subject to a \$5,000 fine and must reimburse the school if any school funds were used in the offense. SB 1532 passed along party lines 31-29.

## **HB 2294 (Chapter 292) Yielding to Emergency Vehicles; Penalties**

HB 2294 sets civil penalties for vehicle operators who do not move over or slow down when approaching a first responder vehicle. A person who violates the requirement to move over to slow down when approaching a stationary vehicle displaying flashing lights or warning lights is subject to a civil penalty of \$275 for a first violation, \$500 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is required to educate the public about the requirement to move over or slow down periodically throughout the year and maintain information about the requirement on the ADOT website. HB 2294 passed out of both Chambers and was signed into law by Governor Ducey on April 28.

## **HB 2889 (Chapter 202) Sexual Offenses; Children; Sentencing**

HB 2889 increases penalties for various sexual offenses related to children. A person who is at least 18 years old and who is convicted of a dangerous crime against children in the first degree involving commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or child sex trafficking is required to be sentenced to natural life in prison if the person has previously been convicted of a dangerous crime against children in the first degree, and the person is not eligible for commutation, parole, or release from confinement on any basis. Increases the minimum, presumptive, and maximum sentences for adults convicted of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. Requires sentences for child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor to be served consecutively. HB 2889 passed out of both Chambers and was signed into law by Governor Ducey on April 9.

Similar to previous years, our bill tracking list will be available through an online report that can be accessed at the following website. The password is "Glendale". Utilizing a dynamic online report allows our Legislative Link participants to receive the most up to date information on bill status and committee hearing schedules at any time. <https://azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=26568&listid=72498&print=true>

Thank you again for your participation in Glendale's Legislative Link Program.

Remember, you can watch committee hearings via the internet by going to the [legislature's website](#) and clicking on the live proceedings hyperlink located in the column on the left side of the page.

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Arizona State Legislature Website: [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

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You can also visit the Intergovernmental Programs Department's webpage for additional information by [clicking here](#)

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Best regards,

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