



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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Publish Date: Friday, April 20, 2012

W*weekly Report* is published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Legislative and Government Affairs Division. While the state's Legislature is in session, Legislative staff provides a summary of bills that pertain to the Department, or that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support or oppose, and a tracking list of bills that may have potential impacts to the state's wildlife and wildlife resources. The Legislative and Government Affairs staff also actively monitors and reports on Congressional Legislation with potential impacts to the Department, and those reports (Congressional Courant) are also available online at: http://www.azgfd.gov/inside_azgfd/edits/legislative_update.shtml

Legislative News:

State Legislature

On Tuesday, Governor Brewer signed the two remaining agency sponsored bills.

- The Game and Fish continuation bill [SB1300](#): **game and fish department; continuation** continues the Department and commission for 10 years and requires that the Department complete a performance audit by 2013, as described in Title 41-1278.
- [HB2639](#): **game and fish omnibus act** seeks to address administrative issues and improve the Department's law enforcement capabilities to investigating wildlife poaching violations.
- [HB2322](#): **watercraft; registration; fees** was signed by the Governor last week. This measure seeks to comply with federal coast guard requirements by eliminating the higher watercraft registration fees for nonresident watercraft owners and removes all residency distinctions in registration fee and instead assesses a nonresident boating safety infrastructure fee for watercraft registered by nonresidents. The fee is based on the length of the watercraft. The fee amount is set in statute and is revenue neutral. Not bringing watercraft fee structures into alignment with 46 USC Chapter 123 will result in registration fee reductions of \$2.23M to Game and Fish and \$1.45M to Law Enforcement Boating Safety Funds/State Lake Improvement Funds.

Following the signature of the Department bills, Governor Brewer placed a moratorium on signing bills until the budget is completed. After months of budget negotiations and a recent breakdown in priorities between the executive and legislative branches, the Governor issued the warning to Senate President Steve Pierce and House Speaker Andy Tobin. Republican lawmakers and Governor Brewer have been at a protracted impasse over a budget deal all session. The Governor has called for increased spending in education and some social

programs, but legislators have said she wants to spend too much money. Instead, Republican lawmakers introduced a spending package that caches away nearly \$500 million for use in 2014, when the temporary one-cent sales tax increase expires and the state is forced to increase its public health care rolls under the federal health care reform law. Wedged in between the budget negotiations is **HB2571: S/E state personnel system** (Governor's proposed personnel reform) which has passed the House and has been approved by the Senate's Appropriations Committee but has not advanced since March 20.

Governor Brewer vetoed **HB2729: state regulation of firearms** for the second year in a row. HB2729 would have required any government entity in Arizona to allow firearms in public buildings, unless the buildings had adequate security measures to ensure that no one could bring a gun inside.

Although Tuesday April 17th was the 100th day of the legislative session and the deadline required by rule for the legislature to adjourn, legislative leadership extended the sine die adjournment deadline until April 28th. According to the rules, leadership can extend it no more than 7 days; thereafter any extension requires a majority vote in each chamber.

Other Bills of Interest:

- [HB2640](#): **hunting; firearm; magazine capacity** has been signed by the Governor.
- [HB2728](#): **firearms; sound suppressors; hunting** has been signed by the Governor.
- Commission supported, [HB2457](#): **S/E possession of weapons while hunting** has been signed by the Governor.
- [HB2571](#): **S/E state personnel system** has passed the House and the Senate's Appropriations Committee on a party line vote 8-4. This measure has not advanced since March 20.

The following are Department related measures that never received a hearing or died along the legislative process:

- HB2072: sale of big game tags
- HB2535: private possession of wildlife; permits
- HB2536: prohibit computer-assisted remote hunting
- HB2537: hunting endangered species; criminal penalty
- HB2538: game and fish appointment board
- HB2539: hunting at night; prohibited
- HB2540: Arizona wildlife conservation service
- HB2786: off-highway vehicles; indicia
- SB1305: game and fish omnibus act
- SB1453: applying aquatic poisons (Rotenone)
- SB1521: heritage fund; audit; hearing
- HCR2047: state parks heritage fund; restoration

Congress

Commission supported **H.R. 4089 Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012** was approved by the House of Representatives Tuesday evening. Predictably, the bill was supported by most Republicans, as well as 39 Democrats, and approved in a 274-146 vote. The measure would

limit the ability of the federal government to impose restrictions on hunting, fishing, and sport shooting on federal lands. Under the bill, federal land managers would be required to support and facilitate hunting and fishing, and require Congress to approve decisions to restrict these activities. Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) said on the House floor that the latter provision is needed because the Obama administration recently tried to limit target shooting on certain lands. A floor provision offered by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) specifically addresses the recently discussed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument proposal. The Foxx Amendment would require Presidential monument designations provided for under the Antiquities Act to be approved by the state legislatures and governors where the proposed monument is located. The bill would also clarify that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate ammunition components or fishing gear.

A Quick Reference to the Department's Monitored, Opposed, and Supported Legislation

To view the most current language please click the links below.

[MONITOR](#)

[OPPOSE](#)

[SUPPORT](#)

LEGEND

- Monitor – The Game and Fish Department is monitoring the progress of these measures, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has not taken a position.
- Oppose – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to oppose these bills.
- Support – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support these bills

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