WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
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Upcoming April Session Deadlines

19 Last day for consideration of bills in Conference Committees

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: AZGFD Legislative Affairs

Legislative News:

Now that the deadline for bills to be heard in committee has passed, the legislature has slowed action on bills to a trickle. While painstaking negotiations continue on the state budget, Medicaid expansion, transaction privilege tax, and new common core standards for education, a significant number of bills await a final vote before they are transmitted to the Governor.

- SB1223: license classifications; fees has passed the Senate 26-2 and passed the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee (8-0). It now awaits a hearing in the House Rules Committee. Members have complemented the Department and Commission on the proactive approach of the legislation and underscored the economic benefits of wildlife conservation. They also acknowledge the broad spectrum of Sportsmen organizations across the state supporting SB1223. The legislation's intent is to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to set future license structures and fees directly through a streamlined, customer focused process as opposed to the current complex, legislative and rulemaking process. This legislation would also allow the Department to operate more like a business and have the ability to react to changing market conditions and customer needs in a timely manner. For more information on SB1223 please click HERE.
    - SB1469: **applying aquatic poisons,** seeks to prohibit the Game and Fish Department from applying rotenone or antimycin A to any body of water unless an impact analysis of risks is submitted to the Game and Fish Commission. The Commission is required to approve the analysis if it determines the application will not endanger the health of

the environment, humans or livestock. Some exceptions. SB1469 Passed the Senate on a 17-11 vote. Commission voted to support this bill. It passed the House Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources 6-2 on 3/18, Rules Committee and now awaits a Third Read.

- Strike Everything HB2551: **off-highway vehicle; use; authority**, states that driving an off-highway vehicle on roads, trails, routes or areas closed by federal rule or regulation is not a violation of state law. On 3/20, the commission voted to support the striker contingent on adoption of title 17 language that will address state wildlife officers' law enforcement concerns under state law. The commission's support for the strike-everything language stems from the commission's long-standing concerns that the new Forest Service travel management rules exceed science-based protection of habitat, and put undue constraints on reasonable public access to federally managed lands and the commission's and department's ability to meet wildlife management objectives.

The Department is tracking the following bills:

- HB2172**: ADOT administration,** allows that on a monthly basis, the Director of the Department of Transportation is required to deposit 1.6 percent of motor vehicle fuel tax monies in the State Lake Improvement Fund. Repeals statute requiring the Dept to conduct a survey to determine the taxes paid on fuel for watercraft in order to determine the amount put in the Fund. HB2172 passed out of the House (60-0). It has received a do pass recommendation (7-0) from the Senate Transportation and as well the Appropriations Committee. An Amendment adopted by the Appropriations Committee lowers the maximum value of a bond ADOT may require a motor fuel vehicle supplier to obtain from $25 million to $5 million. This bill passed the Senate by a 25-0 vote and was recommended for concurrence due to Senate Amendments.
- HB2299: **all-terrain vehicles; definition,** states that the definition of "all-terrain vehicles" is modified to include vehicles with bench or bucket seats, exclude vehicles that were originally manufactured for use on a public highway, and to increase the maximum width of the vehicles to 65 inches, from 64,. Currently, language in the statute is somewhat vague (or open for interpretation) when referring to golf cart, sand rail or home-made off road machines. The proposed change captures these vehicles and consequently brings greater clarity to how all other associated OHV regulations bear regarding those machines. HB2299 was amended on the House Floor to address user and Department concerns and subsequently passed out of the House (57-0). HB2299 passed the Senate Transportation committee 6-0. HB2299 has passed Rules and awaits COW.
- SCR1013: **endangered species act**, states that the members of the legislature support the efforts of the U.S. Congress to update the Endangered Species Act to improve its effectiveness while ensuring sustainable natural resources and relieving Arizona from burdensome regulatory measures. SCR1013 passed the Senate (17-13) on a party-line vote. In the House the Agriculture and Water (A&W) Committee passed SCR1013 8-0. SCR1013 has passed Rules and awaits COW action.

The following bills have not received a hearing OR been held:

- SB1372: **S/E trespass; private; noncommercial property** classifies, as criminal trespass in the third degree, knowingly entering, traversing or remaining on any private noncommercial real property within 100 miles of the Mexico border without written permission of the property owner. Strike Everything SB1372 passed the Government and Environment Committee on 2/21, and received a 25-5 Senate vote. It was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, but did not receive a hearing.
- HB2594: **local transportation assistance fund; restoration**, establishes the Local Transportation Assistance Fund consisting of various State Lottery Fund monies and annual appropriations to provide that the total monies available in each fiscal year equal $20.5 million. Municipalities and counties will receive monies from LTAF in the proportion that their population bears to the total population. Annual State Lottery Fund transfers to the general fund are reduced. Also establishes the AZ State Parks Board Heritage Fund consisting of specified State Lottery Fund monies. HB2594 passed the Energy Environment and Natural Resources Committee (8-0) and has yet to receive a hearing in the House Appropriations committee.
- SB1403: **United Nations Rio declaration; prohibition.** Prohibits state and political subdivisions from adopting or implementing any tenet of the United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Statement of Principles for Sustainable Development adopted at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil in 1992, or any other international law that contravenes the U.S. Constitution or the state Constitution. SB1403 received a 4-3 party line vote in the Senate Government and Environment Committee and was retained in Committee of the Whole for 2 weeks until finally passing 16-13 on a party-line vote.
- HB2654: **full-time students; hunting licenses,** states that a nonresident "full-time student" (defined as a student registered for at least 12 credit hours per semester at a post secondary educational institution in Arizona) is permitted to purchase a resident hunting license. HB2654 passed the A&W committee (8-0) and received a 52-4 vote by the full House. The bill was held in the Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee on 3/13 due to members' concerns that non-residents would be competing for resident hunting tags and permits. It was subsequently removed from the agenda on 3/20 during the last week for committee hearings.
- HB2429: **water protection fund; annual funding**, requires that at the beginning of each fiscal year, an amount equal to $5 million minus the sum of the amounts deposited in the Arizona Water Protection Fund from certain fees for the purchase or lease of Central Arizona Project water is appropriated from the general fund to the Fund. If the amounts deposited from the fees exceed $5 million, the amount in excess is credited against the general fund appropriation in subsequent fiscal years. The appropriation cannot exceed $5 million in any fiscal year. HB2429 passed the House A&W Committee (6-1), but was held in House Appropriations on 2/27.
- HB2468**: discounted hunting licenses for veterans; soldiers,** the bill seeks to allow the Commission the authority to issue a class A fishing license or a class G general hunting license for a reduced fee to a veteran. The Commission is allowed to reduce the fee by ten percent for every four years of the veteran's service in the U.S. armed forces. Although this bill was referred to the House Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee, but did not receive a hearing.

- HB2567: **animal cruelty; offense**, states that acts that constitute cruelty to animals are expanded to include intentionally, knowingly or recklessly subjecting an animal to "cruel possession," defined as confining an animal in a manner that is detrimental to the animal's health. This bill was referred to the Agriculture and Water Committee and has not received a hearing.

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

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

MONITOR
SUPPORT
OPPOSE

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

If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact:
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