



# WEEKLY REPORT

## ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Larry D. Voyles, Director  
5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086  
[www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)

## Arizona Game and Fish Commission

Norman W. Freeman, Chairman  
Jack F. Husted, Vice Chair  
John W. Harris  
Robert E. Mansell  
Kurt R. Davis

---

**Publish Date: Friday, April 6, 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](http://www.azgfd.gov/inside_azgfd/edits/legislative_update.shtml)

## Legislative News:

### State Legislature

This week, two agency sponsored bills passed a Senate third read and will undergo a final read in the House, the final step before they are transmitted to the Governor for signature.

- 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. SB1300 is expected to be debated in Senate Committee of the Whole and scheduled for a third read vote soon.
- [HB2322](#): **watercraft; registration; fees** has passed a Senate third read 26-4. 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.
- [HB2639](#): **game and fish omnibus act** passed a Senate third read yesterday on a 24-5 vote. This measure seeks to address administrative issues and improve law enforcement capabilities to investigating wildlife poaching violations.

### 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** authorizes the possession of legal weapons, devices, ammunition or magazines while hunting if the weapon or device is not used to take wildlife. Taking wildlife while using a weapon or device that is not authorized is a class 1 misdemeanor. Striker HB2457 passed a Senate final read 21-7 and was transmitted to the Governor yesterday.
- [HB2571](#): **S/E state personnel system** passed the Senate's Appropriations Committee on a party line vote 8-4. This measure has not advanced.

### Congress

Congress is on Spring recess until April 19<sup>th</sup>.

---

## 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

**If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact:**

**Tony Guiles, Legislative Liaison: [aguiles@azgfd.gov](mailto:aguiles@azgfd.gov)**

or

**Jorge Canaca, Asst. Legislative Liaison: [jcanaca@azgfd.gov](mailto:jcanaca@azgfd.gov)**

**This publication may be found online: [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)**

