



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Larry D. Voyles, Director
5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086
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, March 23, 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

While budget negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor's office continue, legislative committees have completed their last week of hearings leaving only the House and Senate Appropriations Committees with unfinished business. Things are expected to speed-up from here on.

- [HB2639](#): **game and fish omnibus act** passed the Senate's Rules Committee 6-0 and has been heard in both the minority and majority causes. Next, this measure will be discussed in Senate COW and scheduled for a third read vote.
- The Senate's companion version ([SB1305](#)) was referred to the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee and was held by the chairman. This means this measure has died.
- The Game and Fish continuation bill [SB1300](#): **game and fish department; continuation** passed the House on a 58-0 vote.
- [SB1521](#): **heritage fund; audit; hearing** requiring the Senate and House committees on natural resources and agriculture, or their successor committees, to hold at least one public hearing on the decennial performance audit of the programs and expenditures of the Game and Fish Commission Heritage Fund. This measure was opposed by Rep. Farnsworth on the floor due to his belief that this bill was unnecessary and adds undue statutory mandates to legislative committees which currently possess the authorities expressed in the bill and therefore wastes resources by bogging down the legislative process. It failed third read 11-47 and has died unless brought back for reconsideration.

- [HB2322](#): **watercraft; registration; fees** was discuss in Senate caucus on Monday and is expected to be debated in Senate COW and possibly voted on by the full Senate soon. 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.

Other Bills of interest:

- [HB2640](#): **hunting; firearm; magazine capacity** was passed by the legislature on Tuesday and signed by the Governor the following day.
- [HB2728](#): **firearms; sound suppressors; hunting** has passed the House 42-14 and has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 6-2 and found to be proper for consideration by the Rules Committee.
- 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 the House 54-4 and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 7-0.
- [HB2571](#): **S/E state personnel system** passed the Senate's Appropriations Committee on a party line vote 8-4. This measure has not advanced since then.
- As of the date of this posting, [HB2072](#): **sale of big game tags** has not resurfaced in its originally introduced form. However, proponents continue to meet with legislative members to find a sponsor, a germane bill and solidify support before they make a final push and resurrect some form of this measure this legislative session.

Congress

The U.S. Senate has passed a \$109 billion transportation funding bill that reauthorizes the nation's surface transport programs for two years. The current surface transportation authorization is set to expire on March 31. By a bipartisan vote of 74-22, the senators approved the bill, **S1813, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century** or **(MAP-21)**, which will maintain funding at current levels, indexed for inflation. On 3/19/2012 the measure was amended in the Senate by unanimous consent after passage. The provisions of the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (commonly called the Dingell-Johnson Act or Wallop Breaux Act) and State Boating Safety Grants are linked to the reauthorization of the Transportation Act. This reauthorizes funding for a 2-year period (rather than 5) and keeps Wallop Breaux and State Boating Safety Grant Program intact. Next, this measure will be considered by the U.S. House.

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

Posted Calendars and Committee Hearings

- H2319: NOTICE; CLAIM; PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
Calendar: [3/26 House Final Reading](#)
- H2362: STATE PARKS REVENUE FUND
Calendar: [3/26 Senate Third Reading](#)
- H2676: GOVERNMENT ENTITIES; ATTORNEY FEES
Calendar: [3/26 Senate COW](#)
- S1075: STATE FORESTER; WILDFIRE RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT
Calendar: [3/26 House Third Reading](#)
- S1087: FIREARMS; STATE PREEMPTION
Calendar: [3/27 House Consent](#)
- S1153: HEARING AID DISPENSERS
Hearing: [House Appropriations](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 2:00 PM, House Rm. 1)
- S1193: PROPOSED RULES; ACCEPTABLE DATA
Calendar: [3/27 House Consent](#)
- S1231: APPROPS; ATTY GENERAL; HABITAT DESTRUCTION
Hearing: [House Appropriations](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 2:00 PM, House Rm. 1)
- S1237: WILDFIRE; NOTICE OF VIOLATION; POLLUTANTS
Calendar: [3/27 House Consent](#)
- S1288: MUNICIPAL WATER FEES; REPEAL; APPROP
Hearing: [House Appropriations](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 2:00 PM, House Rm. 1)
- S1304: FIREARMS REGULATION; POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
Calendar: [3/27 House Consent](#)
- S1332: FEDERAL LANDS; CONVEYANCE & TAXATION
Hearing: [House Rules](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 1:00 PM, House Rm. 4)
- S1415: PROPERTY STATUS STUDY; APPROP
Hearing: [House Appropriations](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 2:00 PM, House Rm. 1)
- S1417: MINING OPERATIONS; LONG-TERM STORAGE CREDITS
Calendar: [3/27 House Consent](#)
- SCR1031: STATEWIDE INITIATIVES; PERIODIC REAUTHORIZATION
Hearing: [House Appropriations](#) (Monday 03/26/12 at 2:00 PM, House Rm. 1)

If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact:

Tony Guiles, Legislative Liaison: aguiles@azgfd.gov

or

Jorge Canaca, Asst. Legislative Liaison: jcanaca@azgfd.gov

This publication may be found online: www.azgfd.gov

