



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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Day of Session:	51
Bills Posted:	1145
Bills Passed:	2
Bills Vetoed:	0
Bills Signed:	2
Mem, Res Posted:	70
Mem, Res Passed:	3

Upcoming March Session Deadlines

22 Last day for House consideration of Senate bills and last day for Senate consideration of House bills

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:

State Legislature

- Yesterday, [SB1223: license classifications; fees](#) the Commission voted (5-0) to support a proposed floor [Amendment](#) (Amendment #2) sponsored by Senator Steve Pierce, placing a cap (fee limitation) on the total amount of revenue that can be raised from license and watercraft registration fees through SB1223.

Amendment #2 reads:

THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH FEES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, BUT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF LICENSE, PERMIT, TAG AND STAMP FEES COLLECTED IN ANY FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED FIFTY PERCENT MORE THAN OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FROM THE GAME AND FISH FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013.

This effectively caps the amount by which license fees can be increased, and preserves the original aim of the legislation to authorize the Commission license and fee restructuring flexibility. The watercraft registration fee language reads the same.

The first amendment sponsored by Sen. Shooter added an expiration date of July 1, 2019, to 17-333(A) on Page 11, line 17. The amended text (in blue) reads:

THROUGH JULY 1, 2019, THE COMMISSION SHALL PRESCRIBE BY RULE LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS THAT ARE VALID FOR THE TAKING OR HANDLING OF WILDLIFE, FEES FOR LICENSES, PERMITS, TAGS AND STAMPS AND APPLICATION FEES.

This is an added "check and balance" on the commission's authority under the new bill. The commission would need to seek reauthorization, through the Legislature, to extend this authority after this date. On 2/21, the Commission voted to unanimously support Amendment #1.

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 on Thursday 2/28, the Commission has previously voted to support this bill.

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. Passed out of the House (60-0) and was assigned to Senate Transportation and Appropriations Committees.
- [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) was transmitted to the Senate and has been assigned to the Senate Transportation committee.
- [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 and was assigned to the House Agriculture and Water (A&W) Committee.
- [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 the House Appropriations on 2/27.

- [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 today and was transmitted to the Senate.
- [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 on 2/28.
- [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, but has not advanced since.

The following bills have not received a hearing:

- [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

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