



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Issue 9 – March 13, 2020

Legislative Overview

Today is the 61st day of the legislative session. This week, Governor Doug Ducey issued a Declaration of Emergency and an Executive Order to provide relief and guidance to Arizona agencies to reduce negative effects on public health officials and Arizonans from the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor also requested appropriations for emergency funds from the Legislature, which prompted both the House and Senate yesterday to approve **SB1051 DHS; continuation**, an emergency measure appropriating a total of \$55M to the Public Health Emergency Fund to combat the outbreak.

The Legislature has implemented measures to limit public activity within the chambers, including closing both House and Senate galleries, encouraging limited attendance at committee hearings, cancelling field trips and visits from outside organizations, and encouraging members and staff to avoid in-person meetings. All these measures go into effect today, March 13th, 2020. The League will continue to monitor bills related to cities and towns as they move through committees and on the floor and give updated information as the situation progresses.

Short-term Rentals

After weeks of working with the industry, the League and stakeholders reached an impasse on negotiations on SB1554 short-term rental enforcement; penalties, sponsored by Senator Kate Brophy-McGee (R-Phoenix). While we agreed on a vast majority of the amended version of the bill, the industry was insistent on mandated minimum municipal zoning requirements in state statute. The League opposed any effort to place local zoning in state statute as a terrible precedent and a one size fits all approach does not work for local governments.

After reaching an impasse, the League and Senator Brophy McGee pursued the bill on the floor of the Senate with our amendment. The bill passed Senate 3rd read Thursday on a vote of 23-5-2. The bill will now move to the House.

Solid Waste Collection – Penalties

HB2305 solid waste services; private provider sponsored by Representative Kelly Townsend (R-Mesa) received a hearing in the Senate Government committee this week. The measure preempts cities and counties from imposing criminal penalties on individuals refusing to enter into service agreements for private solid waste collection services.

The League opposed the bill in committee as it would affect existing contracts that municipalities may have with private haulers. Additionally, the measure directly targets cities and towns for acting within their statutory authority to regulate waste collection. While municipalities rarely utilize criminal penalties for these types of infractions, they serve as a deterrent for nuisance.

The measure passed out of committee 4-3 on a party line vote and is scheduled for the Senate Rules committee on Monday.

Candidate Signs

As introduced HB2028 candidate signs; prohibition; primary, sponsored by Representative Fillmore (R-Apache Junction) would have allowed campaign signs to be posted in the right-of-way 188 days prior to the general election date (approximately 6 months). The bill was amended during Committee of the Whole (COW) on Tuesday to move the proposed timeframe for candidate signs to 150 days before the general election, which would translate to early June. This change would not extend the window of time in which candidate signs would be in the right-of-way.

Additionally, the adopted amendment clarified that the primary and general election dates are those outlined in statute and do not include the early voting period. The measure passed out of the House 31-27 on a party line vote and has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

All bills being actively monitored by the League [can be found here](#).

