



Issue 3 – January 29, 2021

Legislative Update

Today is the 19th day of session and so far 1,395 bills and 92 memorials or resolutions have been introduced. The Senate deadline to introduce legislation is Monday, February 1 at 5 p.m., while the House introduction deadline to introduce measures is February 8. The last day for committees to hear bills in the chamber of origin is February 19.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

Next week, both House and Senate Appropriations committee will hear bills that would establish a state low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC). Senator David Gowan (R-Sierra Vista) sponsored [SB 1327](#) and Representative Regina Cobb (R-Kingman) sponsored an identical bill in the house, [HB 2562](#). The measure is the result of the League resolution committee process and would establish incentives for developers to build affordable housing in communities that lack affordable units. The COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated the need for both immediate and long-term solutions to housing, and a state program would provide a much-needed tool in targeting housing shortages in rural and urban communities. The League will continue to work with the Arizona Housing Coalition to support this measure as it makes its way through the legislative process this session.

Candidate Residency Requirements

On Wednesday, the House Government & Elections committee heard [HB 2181](#) write-ins; residency; filing deadline sponsored by Representative John Kavanagh (R-Scottsdale). The bill would require write-in candidates to be a resident of the area they intend to represent for 120 days prior to the election. As introduced, the measure conflicts with ARS 9-232 which requires candidates for city or town councils to reside in that municipality for a minimum of one-year prior to the election. Cities and towns have applied this requirement equitably for both write-in and traditional candidates. The

League is currently neutral on the bill and is working with the proponents of the measure to ensure that cities and towns preserve the residency requirement currently outlined in statute.

State Liquor Board Membership

[SB 1257](#) state liquor board; membership sponsored by Senator J.D. Mesnard (R-Chandler) passed out of the Senate Commerce committee with a 9-0 vote. The measure requires one member of the State Liquor Board to be a current municipal official. If passed and signed, the measure would ensure municipal input and perspective on board decisions. This legislation was a former League resolution that was adopted at the 2018 League conference.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

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