



EV Bills Advance, so do Bad Elections and Coal Ash Bills.



January 28, 2022

Hi everyone!

This week we had a pleasant surprise as four of Senator Steele's electric vehicle (EV) bills passed out of the Transportation and Technology Committee. Please consider thanking the senators who helped make that happen including Senators [Boyer](#) (voted no on SB1150, but yes on the rest), [Gabaldon](#), [Otondo](#), [Pace](#), [Rios](#), [Shope](#), and, of course, Senator [Steele](#). Be sure to mention if you are a constituent!

In not unexpected news, the bill to give the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) authorization to pursue taking on the federal coal ash program, HB2411, passed out of the House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee along party lines. Resolutions to promote building border wall (HR2004) and to oppose the 30x30 program to protect land (HCR2024) also passed. Already, numerous ridiculous and harmful bills to impede our ability to vote passed out of committee and again along party lines. More to come this next week.

This week, please call your House members and ask them to oppose [HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers). It allows private water companies to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into active management areas (AMAs) for development. Creating groundwater sacrifice zones and further privatizing water is a bad idea. This bill awaits floor action in the House. [You can find your representatives' phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.), which

repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity, awaits action in House Rules.

We urge you to create an account on the [Request to Speak System](#), if you have not already. Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) is graciously volunteering to sign you up. To get an account set up, just [go to this link](#). To learn more about Request to Speak, join us on Monday at 6:00 PM for a training conducted by CEBV. [Sign up here](#).

This week, we encourage you to sign in on [Request to Speak](#) in opposition to the following bills: SB1055, SB1056, SB1094, SB1120, SB1376, SB1396, SCR1005, SCR1025, HB2130, HB2236, HB2241, HB2317, HB2453, HB2498, HB2536, HB2549, and HCR2001.

Sign in to support SB1270, SB1275, and HB2226. See the details on the bills below under "Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week."

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#).

If you have not done so already, please sign up for Environmental Day at the Capitol at the end of this message.

Thank you so much for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

Monday, January 31st**Senate Committee on Transportation & Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR109**

- [SB1320 intergovernmental public transportation authorities; formation](#) (Kerr) raises the population threshold for forming an intergovernmental public transportation authority. This seems okay to me. **MONITOR**
- [SB1333 neighborhood occupantless electric vehicles](#) (Pace) includes requirements and restrictions for neighborhood occupantless electric vehicles. This seems like it is probably okay. **MONITOR**
- [SB1356 transportation tax; election; Maricopa county](#) (Pace: Carroll) is an emergency measure that directs the Maricopa County board of supervisors to call a countywide election for the continuation of the county transportation excise tax on November 8, 2022. It says 52.5% would go to roads, mostly freeways and state highways, and 32.5% for public transportation, plus up to 14% for capital and utility relocation costs for light rail. It establishes a Transportation Tax Plan. We are still reviewing this. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [SB1055 election process; contractors and contracts](#) (Townsend) makes contractors that provide election-related equipment or services and fail to perform under the terms of the contract liable for liquidated damages. **OPPOSE**.
- [SB1056 misplaced ballots; invalidity; misdemeanor; damages](#) (Townsend) says any misplaced ballots not included in the initial tally at a polling place to be invalid and makes misplacing a ballot a class 2 misdemeanor. This disenfranchises voters and will also make it impossible to get poll workers. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1094 petition signatures; description; invalidity](#) (Mesnard) requires the signer of the petition to read or listen to the initiative or referendum description printed on a petition. If they do not, their signature is void. This is outrageous and intended to merely disqualify signatures. What if I do not want to read it? What if I already read it at home or read the whole measure? **OPPOSE**
- [SB1260 registrations; early voting; move notice](#) (Mesnard) classifies, as a class 5 felony, knowingly providing a mechanism for another person who is registered in another state to vote. **MONITOR**
- [SB1277 board of supervisors; membership](#) (Mesnard) increases the number of supervisors from five to seven in Pima County and from seven to nine in Maricopa County. **MONITOR**.
- [SB1285 elections manual; legislative council](#) (Ugenti-Rita) requires the Secretary of State's official instructions and procedures manual to be reviewed and approved by Legislative Council instead of the Governor. Is that a good idea?
- [SCR1005 federal ballot voters; identification](#) (Townsend) refers to the ballot a measure to require federal-only voters to show proof of citizenship at the polls, stricter than the voter ID requirements for all other voters. **OPPOSE**.
- [SCR1025 initiative; referendum; legislative districts; signatures](#) (Leach) refers to the ballot a measure to require an initiative petition to be signed by 10 percent of the qualified electors for an initiative measure or 15 percent for a constitutional amendment in each Legislative District, rather than statewide. This would make it more cumbersome and expensive to do ballot measures. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Military Affairs & Public Safety at 2:00 PM in HHR1

- [HB2226 fireworks; use; overnight hours; prohibition](#) (Shah: Bowers, Longdon, et al.) prohibits fireworks from 11:00 PM to 8:00 AM except on New Year's and July 4th. We think they should be prohibited altogether, but this is an improvement. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2255 fireworks; permissible use; Diwali](#) (Biasiucci) allows fireworks to be sold and used on the second and third day of Diwali.
- [HB2317 appropriation; border fence construction](#) (Kavanagh: Chaplik, Griffin, et al.) appropriates \$150 million to build border wall. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Land, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [HB2130 recreational users; property](#) (Griffin) limits a landowner's liability for injuries to recreational or educational users that occur on the owner's land and declares that these users are liable for any damage they cause to the owner's land. It says the land owner has no responsibility to warn people of dangers on the land. This seems way broad. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2539 nonnative species eradication; projects; appropriation](#) (John) appropriates \$15 million for nonnative vegetation invasive species eradication projects, including replacing nonnative vegetation invasive species with native vegetation and restoring habitat for wildlife, in and along the portion of the Gila River between the western boundary of the city of Avondale and the bridge over the Gila River at State Route 85. **MONITOR**
- [HB2580 wildfire management; delegation of authority](#) (Cook) requires the State Forester to keep copies of delegation agreements with the federal government. I'm not sure why this is needed. **MONITOR**.

Tuesday, February 1st

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in House Hearing Room 1

- [HB2232 nonprofit generation and transmission cooperatives](#) (Griffin) exempts an electric generation and transmission cooperative from certain Arizona Corporation Commission assessments. **MONITOR**.
- [HB2409 multi-county water districts; storage tax](#) (Griffin) extends the Central Arizona Water Conservation District property tax until 2035. **MONITOR**
- [HB2536 corporation commissioners; qualifications](#) (Griffin) requires corporation commissioners to be at least 30 years old and have five years experience in business, accounting, finance, economics, or professional engineering. This would disqualify a lot of people who have been or would be excellent commissioners. **OPPOSE**.
- [HB2549 stored water; certificates; impact; accounting](#) (Griffin) requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), when determining if groundwater will be physically available to be withdrawn through future wells for an assured water supply determination determinations, to assume the service area is the same as the boundaries of a municipality or other water provider. It limits ADWR oversight relative to physical availability if it is stored water within the area of impact. **OPPOSE**
- [HCM2006 FEMA; wildfires; flooding; cost threshold](#) (Cook: Cano) asks the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to include costs resulting from flooding associated with wildfires in the threshold required for states to receive Fire Management Assistance Grant funds. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [SB1120 ballot fraud countermeasures; paper; ink](#) (Borrelli: Barto, Fann, et al) is more holograms on ballots, among other requirements. **OPPOSE**.
- [SB1239 appropriation; widening; I-10](#) (Shope) appropriates \$400 million from the state General Fund to the Arizona Department of Transportation to widen Interstate 10 between Chandler and Casa Grande. We just keep building wider and more freeways. How about changing it up?
- [SB1270 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$3 million annually from the State Lottery Fund to the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. We would like to see this bumped up to the \$10 million that voters had approved originally. **SUPPORT**.

House Committee on Commerce at 2:00 P.M. in HHR3

- [HB2586 electric charging providers](#) (Weninger) says electric charging providers are not public service corporations. I don't think they were ever considered such. The AZ Corporation Commission already determined this. **MONITOR**

Wednesday, February 2nd

House Committee on Government & Elections at 9:00 AM in HHR1

- [HB2236 voter registration; request required](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Blackman, et al.) says no one can register someone to vote unless they have affirmatively said they want to register. This appears to be a preemptive strike against automatic voter registration. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2241 early ballot drop off; identification](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Blackman, et al.) requires additional ID for dropping off your early ballot. Apparently your signature is not enough for them. **OPPOSE**.
- [HB2379 election procedures manual; statutory conflict](#) (Bolick) says any conflicts between the elections manual and statute would invalidate the manual. I think that is true already. **MONITOR**
- [HB2453 governmental entities; mask requirement; prohibition](#) (Carter: Biasiucci, Blackman, et al.) prohibits government entities from requiring face masks for COVID. They require them for other purposes. I think they should say they are doing it for the flu or colds and do it anyway. Ridiculous!
- [HB2469 early ballots; polling place tabulation](#) (Carroll: Bolick, Burges, et al) allows someone to show up at their polling place with their early ballot and ID and to remove the ballot and put it in the ballot tabulation equipment. **MONITOR**
- [HB2482 municipality; general plan; adoption; amendment](#) (Martinez: Blackman, Finchem, et al.) makes minor technical changes. **MONITOR**
- [HB2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al.) requires proof of citizenship, location, etc. for registering to vote. **MONITOR**
- [HB2493 election integrity fund](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Chaplik, et al.) establishes and appropriates \$12 million to an Election Integrity Fund for grants to counties for election security measures. **MONITOR**
- [HB2494 voter registration events; posting](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al.) requires the secretary of state and county recorders to post all events where they do voter registration on their website. To make it easier for the trolls to troll? **MONITOR**
- [HB2498 COVID-19; vaccination requirements; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Blackman, et al.) prohibits any government entity from requiring COVID vaccines. Argh!
- [HCR2001 racial discrimination; public education](#) (Kaiser: Bolick, Dunn, et al.) is a resolution that bans affirmative action and other programs to address the impacts of historic systemic racism. **OPPOSE**

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [SB1238 state lands; appraisals; leases; rights-of-way](#) (Kerr) makes some technical changes to state land leases, including relative to rights-of-way. I am still reviewing for any possible negative impacts. **MONITOR**
- [SB1376 codes; ordinance; use of refrigerants](#) (Gray) preempts local government from banning refrigerants if they are allowed under the Clean Air Act, which ignores the need for a rapid phase out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that the Biden administration is moving to phase out. HFCs contribute significantly to climate change. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1396 hydrogen study committee](#) (Shope) establishes a hydrogen study committee made up entirely of legislators. It includes studying a pipeline and blending hydrogen with fracked gas. There is no provision for studying green hydrogen -- hydrogen derived from water, not gas. There are also some other troubling provisions in it. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1405 state parks board; volunteers; fingerprinting](#) (Gowan) requires background checks for volunteers who work with children or collect fees. This seems fine.
- [SB1443 solid waste; long-term care facilities](#) (Pace) prohibits a city from limiting private recycling for these facilities. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [SB1275 fireworks; use; overnight hours; prohibition](#) (Mesnard: Shah) prohibits fireworks from 11:00 PM to 8:00 AM except on New Year's and July 4th. We think they should be prohibited altogether, but this is an improvement. **SUPPORT**.

House Committee on Appropriations at 1:30 PM in HHR1

- [HB2317 appropriation; border fence construction](#) (Kavanagh: Chaplik, Griffin, et al.) appropriates \$150 million from the general fund for constructing a border wall.

OPPOSE

- [HB2539 nonnative species eradication; projects; appropriation](#) (John) same as above.

House Committee on Transportation at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [HB2598 transportation tax; election; Maricopa county](#) (Carroll) is the same as SB1356 above. **MONITOR.**

Thursday, February 3rd**House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health at 9:00 AM in SHR1**

- Joint Legislative Budget Committee Presentations:
- AZ State Land Department
- AZ Department of Agriculture
- AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management

Environmental Day at the Capitol February 9, 2022

Join Sierra Club and more than 20 other organizations at Environmental Day at the Capitol 2022 (our lobby day) on February 9th. This year's theme is **Act Now! There's a climate crisis.**

We are holding a hybrid event with both in-person and outdoors and virtual activities. We will also be asking everyone who participates in person to wear a mask. Indicate your preference for how you will participate when you register.

Environmental Day at the Capitol Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

To register for Environmental Day at the Capitol, [use this link](#). Thank you!

Leading up to Environmental Day, we will have scheduled informational Zooms, Briefings, and Volunteer Lobby Workshops. If you would like a recording, of the ones we have held, just email us. Please register to receive Zoom links for the remaining briefings.

- January 31, 6:00 PM, [Request to Speak Training](#)
- February 3, Noon - [Democracy at Risk in the Arizona Legislature](#)

