



Speak up for Democracy and More!



February 25, 2022

Hi everyone!

This week, both the House and Senate focused on moving bills through the process and to the other house. Unfortunately, far too many bad policies crossed over for further consideration and whole bunch of good bills were never considered.

We'll start with a little good news, however. SB1152 and SB1154 passed on reconsideration in the Senate 16-14-1. [SB1152 zero emission vehicles; plans](#) (Steele) requires coordination by the Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Administration, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, to develop a zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) Plan that will increase the number of ZEV vehicles. [SB1154 transportation electrification study committee](#) (Steele) establishes a study committee to review laws and consider ways to promote EVs and to collaborate to identify the best ways to encourage an economy-wide transition from carbon-fueled vehicles to EVs.

In other good news, [HB2836 interim groundwater review areas](#) (Griffin), a bill that allows these interim groundwater review areas to be established, was retained on the calendar and did not advance after Rep. Cobb successfully added her rural management areas for water provisions to the bill. Rep. Griffin responded by saying to her, "You killed the bill." We say "Good!" Another of Rep. Griffin's bad water bills, HB2549, was retained on the calendar as well, but we expect it will be back.

And now for the bad news, [HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater](#)

[transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) passed out of the House 32-26-1-1 with Democratic Representatives Chavez, Espinoza, A. Hernandez, D. Hernandez, Longdon, Meza, Shah, and Sierra joining 25 Republicans to pass this harmful water policy. Please express your disappointment to these representatives and thank the remaining Democrats plus Representatives Barton, Biasuicci, Cobb, Fillmore, Fincham, Kavanagh, and Payne for voting no. HB2055 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.

[HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.) was reconsidered in the House and passed 37-21-1-1. Its twin, SB1631, also advanced in the Senate and we expect it to come to the Senate floor early next week. These bills repeal provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity. We are still opposed to the bills as we have concerns about how they will affect community choice aggregation of electricity overall and rooftop solar in Salt River Project (SRP) territory. **Let your legislators know you have concerns about these bills too and ask them to vote NO.**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

Please keep calling your representatives and asking them to oppose [HB2536 corporation commissioners; qualifications](#) (Griffin). It requires corporation commissioners to be at least 30 years old and have five years of experience in business, accounting, finance, economics, administrative law, or professional engineering. This would disqualify a lot of people who have been or would be excellent commissioners. It was again retained on the Committee of the Whole calendar this week and will likely be back on the calendar early next week.

[You can find representatives phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al.) was amended to make it less onerous to register to vote, but it still requires additional ID for Tribal ID, birth certificates, etc. We still think it should be rejected.

[HCR2015 initiatives; supermajority vote; requirement](#) (Dunn) passed out of the House 31-28-1. It refers to the ballot a measure that would require a super-majority (60%) approval rather than simple majority approval for all ballot measures. This is a high threshold and will limit opportunities to address important environmental, animal, and social justice issues via the initiative process.

SCR1025 and HCR2014 will likely go to the floor next week. They require proportionate signatures from every legislative district. [Ask your Senator to oppose SCR1025 here.](#) [Ask your Representative to oppose HCR2014 here.](#)

[HCR2025/SCR1012 voter identification; affidavit; procedure](#) is another referral to the ballot. This one would force voters to provide extra forms of identification when returning their early ballots, something they already did to get the ballot. In Texas, a similar law, led to a large number of mail-in ballots being rejected. This has already passed out of the Senate along party lines. **Ask your representatives to vote no on HCR2025/SCR1012!**

[You can find representatives phone numbers here.](#)

If you have not signed up for the [Request to Speak System](#), please do! Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) is graciously volunteering to sign you up. To get an account set up, just [go to this link](#).

This week, we encourage you to sign in on [Request to Speak](#) in opposition to the following bills: HB2130, SB1092, and SB1094.

Sign in to support SB1275, SB1376, 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](#).

To find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers, [go here](#).

If you want to learn more about how a bill becomes a law, check out this [Zine by the Arizona Agenda](#).

Thank you for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

Monday, February 28th

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [HB2482 municipality; general plan; adoption; amendment](#) (Martinez: Blackman, Finchem, et al.) says that major amendments to a city's general plan must be presented at a public hearing within 12 months from when the amendment was proposed. **MONITOR**

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

- Presentation: "Let There Be Water: Lessons from Israel for a Water-Rich Arizona Future" by Eran Pollak (CEO of N-Drip) and Seth Siegel (Chief Sustainability Officer of N-Drip)

- [SB1238 state lands; appraisals; leases; rights-of-way](#) (Kerr) makes several changes to state land leases, including allowing the Land Commissioner to lease state land for commercial purposes without Board approval if the lease term is less than 10 years. **MONITOR**
- [SB1632 appropriation; land department; management system](#) (Kerr) appropriates \$225,000 to the Arizona State Land Department to improve its enterprise-wide management system. **MONITOR**

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

- [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 when they are allowed until 1:00 AM the following morning. We think they should be prohibited altogether, but this is an improvement and can improve air quality and limit trauma to people and animals alike. **SUPPORT**

Tuesday, March 1st

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1

- Presentation: "Ozone and COVID-19 Impacts" by ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera
- [SB1376 codes; ordinance; use of refrigerants](#) (Gray) allows acceleration of the phase out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by limiting local government's ability to prohibit the alternatives. This means a simple change in some building codes. HFCs contribute significantly to climate change. **SUPPORT**

Wednesday, March 2nd

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

- [SB1094 petition signatures; description; invalidity](#) (Mesnard: Leach) voids the signature of anyone who signs an initiative or referendum petition without either hearing or reading the initiative or referendum description printed on the petition. What if the person had previously read or knew about the measure and specifically went to sign the petition? Why would they need to read a short description? We don't require anyone to read about or know anything about an elected official before signing their petition, why for a ballot measure? When you sign a petition, you are merely saying you think it should be considered by the voters and not that you fully endorse it. This bill will result in more signatures being tossed and again make it more difficult and more expensive to put a measure on the ballot. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM in HHR4

- [SB1092 product liability; civil action; limitation](#) (Leach) limits product liability against a product seller that is not also the manufacturer of the product. This will weaken consumer protections. **OPPOSE**

Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in SHR109

Presentations

- Arizona Department of Water Resources update - Tom Buschatzke - Director, ADWR
- Central Arizona Project Update - Ted Cooke - General Manager, CAP, Jennifer Brown - Director, CAP
- Let There Be Water: Lessons from Israel for a Water-Rich Arizona Future- Eran Pollak - CEO, N-Drip, Seth Siegel - Chief Sustainability Office, N-Drip
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Continuation- Misael Cabrera – Director, ADEQ
- [HB2053 department of environmental quality; continuation](#) (Griffin) continues the agency for eight years. We're supportive of keeping the agency, but think there need to be additional requirements in the bill to hold ADEQ accountable for implementing programs. **MONITOR**

- [HB2054 water quality appeals board; continuation](#) (Griffin) continues this board for eight years. The water quality appeals board is the body that hears appeals on aquifer protection permits, pollutant discharge elimination system permits, etc. It does tend to favor ADEQ and the applicants, so there does not appear to be a lot of value added. **MONITOR**
- [HB2057 water supply development fund; revisions](#) (Griffin: Bowers) makes various revisions to this fund, including allowing a single grant for planning or designing water supply development projects to increase from \$100,000 to \$250,000. **MONITOR**
- [HB2409 multi-county water districts; storage tax](#) (Griffin) extends the Central Arizona Water Conservation District property tax until 2035 and the tax's current limit of 4 cents per \$100 assessed valuation until 2029. It would be nice if they required some reforms as part of this, especially relative to the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, which allows for groundwater pumping remote from where water has been recharged. **MONITOR**
- [HB2556 water infrastructure finance; sunset repeal](#) (Griffin) repeals the termination of this entity. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [HB2226 fireworks; use; overnight hours; prohibition](#) (Shah: Bowers, Longdon, et al.) is the same as SB1275. **SUPPORT**

Thursday, March 3rd

Senate Committee on the Judiciary at 9:00 AM in SHR1

- [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 is way broad and could result in more harm to people. **OPPOSE**

Friday, March 4th

March 4th for Climate, 9:30 AM

Meet at Senator Sinema's office and march to Senator Kelly's office. Sign up here bit.ly/March4thClimate .

MARCH 4TH FOR CLIMATE

JOIN US



Friday, March 4th at 9:30am



Senator Sinema's Office



bit.ly/March4thClimate

#ClimateCantWait

