



Arizona Legislative Updates



Help Stop Weak Water Bill and More!



Autumn on the Upper Verde River

March 26, 2021

Hi everyone!

After this past week, we mostly know the universe of bills in play, and there are a lot of bad ones -- bad on democracy, bad on water, bad on waste and plastics, bad on energy. This was the last week for hearing bills in standing committees with the exception of the respective Appropriations Committees. Sadly, several committee chairs decided to wrap up their committee by showing disrespect for people who took time out of their day to testify by not allowing them to do so. The House Committee on Government and Elections was especially bad. **Thank you to Representatives Butler, Salman, Pawlik, Terán, Stahl-Hamilton, and Fernandez for giving a voice to those who were not heard and speaking up for democracy!**

Let's start with some good news. It looks like SB1593 is dead! It never made it to the floor of the Senate. This was one of the many voter suppression bills introduced. It would have reduced the early voting window from 27 days to 22 days and tossed out any ballots not postmarked by the Thursday before the Election, even if they arrived prior to Election Day. **Thank you for taking action**

on this!

There are lots of challenges ahead, however. This coming week, we expect the Arizona Senate to move forward with the weak water quality program, so [please contact your senator and ask them to oppose HB2691 by using this link](#) or the button below.

Please also call and/or email on the following issues. Note that you can use the email link message to find your legislators' phone numbers, provided your address is in the system or after you enter it or you can look up your legislators [using this link](#).

- [Take action to oppose "Bad Neighbor" bill that protects industrial agriculture at the expense of neighbors and public health.](#)
- [Send House members a message, opposing SB1713, which creates new barriers to early voting.](#)
- [Stop attacks on ballot measures in the House.](#)
- [Stop the anti-ballot measure bills in the Senate.](#)
- [Act and share this action opposing SB1485 to prevent purging of the Permanent Early Voting List.](#)

[HB2309 violent; disorderly assembly; public order](#) (Roberts: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) is not on Monday's Rules calendar, so we may have another week to work on stopping it. This bill targets protesters by increasing the penalties of lower level offenses to a felony if part of a gathering that the police have deemed a violent disorderly assembly. This will chill actions by protesters and have a disproportionate impact on people of color. **Call your senator, ask them to vote No on HB2309. You can find their numbers [here](#).**

[SB1156 \(now: solid waste; advanced recycling facilities\)](#) (Mesnard) seeks to exempt from waste regulations facilities using the processes defined as "advanced recycling." The processes include gasification and pyrolysis, as a means to turn plastics to fuel, among other things. This will mean they are more lightly regulated and also includes them eligible for grants from the Recycling Fund monies. We should not be subsidizing plastics to fuel or regulating it more lightly. The fuel produced pollutes a great deal, similar to diesel, and also emits more carbon into the air. We should instead invest in programs to reduce plastic, especially single-use plastics.

Please call your representatives and ask them to oppose this special deal for the plastics industry. You can find their numbers [here](#).

Act on Weak Water Bill!

Please sign in on the [Request to Speak](#) (RTS) system to oppose SB1652, HB2061, HB2248, and HB2794.

Please sign in to support SB1384.

This will likely be one of the last weeks to use the [RTS](#) as committee hearings are finished. They will hold hearings for the budget bills, so there may be a request around those. If you want to set up an account for the RTS and have not yet done so, reach out to [Civic Engagement Beyond Voting](#).

[You can see bills we are tracking here.](#)

If you don't know who your legislators are, just use this [Find My Legislator link](#) and enter your address to find your district, then go to [Members](#) to see who represents your district. You will find their phone numbers and email addresses there as well.

Thank you so much for all that you do!



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up This Week at the Arizona Legislature

Monday, March 29th

House Rules Committee at 1:00 PM

- View the agenda [here](#).

Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 PM

- View the agenda [here](#).

Tuesday, March 30th

House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM

- [SB1384 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$3 million annually from the state lottery funds to the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund for local parks, trails, and protection of historic and cultural resources. We would love to see the full \$10 million included, however. **SUPPORT**.
- [SB1405 appropriation; transportation construction projects; I-10](#) (Leach) appropriates \$5 million to the Arizona Department of Transportation to distribute to the town of Marana for transportation construction projects in the vicinity of Interstate 10. **MONITOR**.
- [SB1652 appropriations; attorney general; investigation; litigation](#) (Livingston) appropriates \$1 million to the Attorney General for investigation and litigation related to antitrust and voting integrity issues. It is furthering the myth of their being some kind widespread voter fraud, which has been repeatedly disproved. **OPPOSE**.

Wednesday, March 31st

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM

- HB2061 CTEDs; nonprofits; postsecondary institutions; agreements (Fillmore) will have a strike-everything amendment on **state permitting dashboard**, which is likely to be similar to HB2543 which requires the Governor to appoint a state permitting director to establish and administer a state permitting dashboard. Projects with construction costs over \$25 million and some smaller projects would qualify for assistance. If disputes arise related to the permitting timetable that cannot be mediated by the director, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council would resolve them. It would cost \$300,000 to \$2 million, depending on how it would be organized, plus a one-time information technology development costs of \$500,000 to \$5 million. This would provide industry with another way to keep agencies from holding them accountable. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2248 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Griffin) infringes on the powers of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and seeks to derail clean energy rules, policies, and other important actions by the ACC. It broadly preempts the Commission from directly or indirectly regulating carbon emissions. That is just bad public policy, especially at a time when we should be doing everything possible to limit these emissions to address the climate crisis. **OPPOSE.**
- HB2387 DHS; exemption; certain foods; wineries (Griffin) will have a strike-everything on voting; hand counts. It is not yet posted.
- HB2523 four-year degrees; community colleges (Nutt: Biasiucci, Bowers, et al) will have a strike-everything on border; appropriations; fund. It is not posted yet.
- [HB2794 election deadlines; modifications prohibited](#) (Hoffman, Barton, Biasiucci, Blackman, et al) makes it a felony for any elections officials to modify deadlines in statutes relative to voting, so would preclude making exceptions due to pandemics or malfunction of voting equipment. **OPPOSE.**
- HB2830 alternative organization; community colleges (Cobb: Biasiucci, Nutt) will have a strike-everything amendment on registration; voting; G&F. It is not yet posted.



View from the Harcuvars



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter