



Bills, Bills, Bills!



January 21, 2022

Hi everyone!

This was a busy week at the Capitol with a plethora of new bills introduced and committee actions on both a significant energy and water bill.

[HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers), which allows private water companies to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into the active management areas (AMAs) for development, passed out of committee along party lines. Its companion bill, SB1147, was in held in the Senate as a number of senators raised concerns with it, including how it would affect rates of these private water companies and generally challenging it as bad policy to allow even more straws in the groundwater.

[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, was amended to remove the broad policy language that could have blocked community choice aggregation for electricity and interfered with resource planning at the Arizona Corporation Commission. We are watching to see what they do next with this bill as it is clear both Speaker Bowers and Representative Griffin have plans to further amend it.

Legislators continue to test positive for COVID and there are no mask requirements and many unmasked faces in both the House and Senate, so we continue to limit our time there, but did venture down with our N95s for a limited time.

To help offset limitations on attending in person, we encourage more of you to sign in on

the [Request to Speak System](#) and voice your support or opposition for legislation there, and call and email your legislators. If you do not have a Request to Speak account, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting 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: SB1012, SB1013, SB1028, SB1056, SB1120, SB1133, SB1175, SCR1005, HR2004, HB2237, HB2238, HB2411.

Sign in to support SB1150, SB1151, SB1152, SB1154, SB1215, SB1275, SCR1010, and HCR2024. See the details on the bills below under "Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week."

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#). Note, I am still updating it after a few technical glitches.

Thank you for all that you do!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

Monday, January 24th

Senate Committee on Transportation & Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [SB1150 electric vehicles; pilot program; appropriation](#)(Steele, Jermaine) establishes an electric vehicle (EV) pilot program, appropriates \$500,000, requires EV ready homes.

SUPPORT.

- [SB1151 charging station; pilot program; appropriation](#)(Steele) appropriates \$500,000 for a pilot program administered by Arizona Department of Administration. **SUPPORT.**
- [SB1152 zero emission vehicles; plans](#) (Steele) requires state agencies to prioritize zero emissions vehicles when they purchase vehicles. **SUPPORT.**
- [SB1154 transportation electrification study committee](#) (Steele) establishes a study committee to review laws and consider ways to promote EVs. **SUPPORT.**

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [SB1008 elections; recount margin](#) (Ugenti-Rita) changes the trigger for an automatic recount in primary and general elections from one-tenth of one percent or a specific number of votes to one-half of one percent, the trigger for an automatic recount in a primary or general election for certain offices. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1012 registration database; federal voters; report](#) (Townsend) requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to provide access to the statewide voter database to a legislative designee and the attorney general's election integrity unit to assess compliance with federal laws regarding voters who are registered as eligible to vote only for federal offices. This is unnecessary and feeds more of the paranoia about elections. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1013 secretary of state; federal form](#) (Townsend) requires the Secretary of State, by the end of this year, to submit a request to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to include Arizona's proof of citizenship on the federal voter registration form. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1028 ballot paper; security measures](#) (Rogers) requires "fraud countermeasures" for ballots to include at least 3 of 10 on the list including ultraviolet numbering or designs, holographs, etc. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1054 election equipment; security; legislative review](#) (Townsend) requires a detailed review of election equipment security for Maricopa and Pima counties every two years.
- [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.
- [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**
- [SB1119 electronic ballot images; public record](#). (Borrelli: Fann, Townsend, et al) requires online copies of any digital ballot images to be made searchable and asserts that ballot images are public records.
- [SB1120 ballot fraud countermeasures; paper; ink](#). (Borrelli: Barto, Fann, et al) is more holograms on ballots, among other requirements. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1133 schools; cities; all mail prohibited](#) (Rogers) prohibits a city, town or school district from conducting a mail ballot election. Ridiculous. **OPPOSE.**
- [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.**

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

- [HR2004 border wall; construction materials; repurpose](#) (Blackman: Payne) says the Arizona House of Representatives supports transferring unused federal border wall construction materials to the states to construct a border wall along the southern border. **OPPOSE.**

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

- [HCR2024 30x30 land program; opposing](#) (Griffin) expresses the legislature's opposition to the Biden Administration's 30 by 30 program and other efforts to protect public lands from development, including as wilderness, conservation lands, etc. **OPPOSE.**

Tuesday, January 25th

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

- [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 them accountable for implementing programs. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2127 fire suppression; assistance; private landowners](#) (Griffin) requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Management to prioritize funding for private landowners for emergency repairs related to fires and fire suppression. **NO POSITION**
- [HB2231 universities; water rights adjudication](#) (Griffin) requires the state universities to offer pro bono assistance to small landowner claimants in the general stream adjudications. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2406 water quality fee fund](#) (Griffin) allows ADEQ to use Water Quality Fees for more programs and allows the agency to also set the fees. This is probably okay, but we still are concerned about using permit fees to fund the agency -- 80%. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2410 environmental programs; amendments](#) (Griffin) appears to be primarily clean up language in the statutes, but we are still reviewing it. It repeals several sections of law and changes some mandatory language to permissive, which we always want to scrutinize. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2411 coal combustion residuals program](#) (Griffin) authorizes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to seek assumption of the coal ash program from EPA. We oppose ADEQ getting additional programs while the agency is not implementing the ones it has and are concerned about its coziness with utilities. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2538 water protection fund; appropriation](#) (Griffin) appropriates \$1 million for this fund. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2556 water infrastructure finance; sunset repeal](#) (Griffin) repeals the sunset of this entity retroactively. **MONITOR.**

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [SB1175 noncustodial federal monies; appropriation](#) (Gowan) allows the legislature to appropriate non-custodial federal dollars, such as block grants. This is a truly bad idea. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1192 appropriation; interstate 10; vehicle lanes](#) (Livingston: Barto, Borelli, et al.) appropriates \$59,600,000 from the state General Fund to the Arizona Department of Transportation to design and construct an additional eastbound and westbound vehicle lane on I-10 between SR-85 and Citrus Road. If only they would focus on fixing roads and investing in rail instead of forever wider roads.

Wednesday, January 26th

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

- [HB2170 election mailings; third-party disclosures](#) (Kavanagh) any non-governmental entity that mails or emails information with links to official elections materials must include a disclaimer that it is not from the government. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2237 same day voter registration; prohibition](#) (Hoffman) prohibits same day voter registration, even though we do not have it anyway. We should. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2238 ballot drop boxes; prohibition](#) (Hoffman) prohibits counties from using unmonitored drop boxes for early voting. This is unnecessary. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2243 voter registration; state residency; cancellation](#) (Hoffman) requires insertion of a statement on the voter registration form that if someone moves to another state, their registration will be canceled.

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

- [SB1067 water infrastructure finance authority; cities](#) (Shope) removes some limitations on the program. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1171 unlawful feeding; wildlife exception](#) (Gowan) excludes holiday decorations not intended for feeding wildlife from the definition of unlawful feeding. **MONITOR.**

- [SCR1010 Arizona's outdoors; recreation; supporting](#) (Shope) is a resolution recognizing the importance of getting outdoors, equal access to nature, etc. **SUPPORT.**

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.**

Thursday, January 27th

Senate Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM in SHR1

- [SB1215 missing and murdered indigenous peoples](#) (Steele: Dalessandro, M. Hernandez, et al.) establishes a study committee and directs them to look at ways to reduce and end violence against Indigenous people. **SUPPORT.**

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 still planning to do a hybrid event with both in-person and outdoors and virtual activities. We will also be asking everyone 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.

- Jan 27, Noon – [Sustaining Arizona's Heritage Fund](#)
 - Jan 27, 6:30PM - [Learn How to Be a Volunteer Lobbyist!](#)
 - January 28, Noon - [Sustaining Flows in Rivers and Streams](#)
 - February 3, Noon - [Democracy at Risk in Arizona](#)
 - Look for two additional briefings, one on specific bills and one on the Request to Speak system.
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