

52nd Arizona Legislature - Second Regular Session

Legislative Report

The Second Regular Session of the 52nd Arizona Legislature adjourned sine die in the early morning hours of Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 5:45 a.m. The session lasted 117 days, 36 days longer than the 2015 session. Arizona Legislative sessions typically conclude around 125 days so the session was fairly close to the average length.

52nd Second Regular Session Overview

- 1,247 bills were introduced
- 388 passed and were sent to the Governor
- 374 bills were signed
- 14 were vetoed
- 114 memorials and resolutions were introduced
- 36 memorials and resolutions passed and were sent to the Secretary of State
- General effective date of all enactments without an emergency clause is August 6, 2016

This session top Legislative leaders in both the House and Senate made major announcements about their political futures. Speaker David Gowan announced his intention to run for Congress prior to the start of the legislative session and President Andy Biggs later announced he would be running for Congress after Congressman Matt Salmon announced his retirement. In addition, the front runner to be the next Speaker of the House of Representative, Representative Justin Olson, indicated he would also run for Salmon's seat. This news made for some interesting dynamics during the session. Due to current leadership leaving their posts to run for congressional seats, both the House and Senate will be electing new leadership for the 2017 session. This is a

Presidential election year which will mean higher voter turnout and all the Members of the State Legislature are up for reelection. The legislative membership will see changes due to Members retiring or running for other elected positions. However, it is anticipated that the Legislature will remain Republican controlled. Along with electing a new President in November, voters also will likely be tasked with deciding ballot measures relating to marijuana and minimum wage if circulators are able to get the signatures necessary to qualify for the ballot.

The state budget was a major priority for the Legislature with education funding a driving force in the budget discussions. Governor Doug Ducey pushed hard from the start of the session to get a budget deal put together quickly. After many weeks of negotiations the budget passed along party lines in the early morning hours of March 4th and was signed by the Governor. The approximate 9.6 billion dollar deal included \$80 million in new spending. Budget highlights:

- \$132 million increase for K-12 funding
- \$22 million increase for Department of Corrections
- \$87 million for transportation infrastructure
- \$26 million for border security
- \$119 million increase for the Department of Child Safety
- \$32 million for Universities
- \$26 million set aside for tax cuts

The Governor and Legislative leadership worked hard to craft a budget that would improve education funding while being sustainable long term. Several House republicans held out for increased funding for K-12 schools and ultimately it was

incorporated into the approved budget. Ballot Proposition 123 which was an effort to settle a lawsuit between the legislature and K-12 schools over education funding was narrowly approved at the special election on May 17th. Another item of note was the last minute renewal of KidsCare, the health insurance program for children of the working poor, which passed in the final days of the session after a lengthy floor battle.

On behalf of the Law Offices of John K. Mangum, P.C. we appreciate the opportunity to serve you at the Arizona Legislature and we are looking forward to preparing for the 2017 legislative session. Listed in the "Appendix" is the final legislative update. This report summarizes all legislative action to all bills we monitored on your behalf this session. Please note that all bills that were used as "striker" bills have been eliminated if the current subject matter is no longer applicable to your interests. Therefore, the final legislative report details legislation that is pertinent to your interests. In addition, attached is a list of general business related bills for your review. If you would like copies of legislation in its final form, copies are available at www.azleg.state.az.us or you may contact our office. If you have any questions relating to the report, please call us and we will be happy to assist you.