



## What's Up in the Legislature

(March 11, 2007)

Conservative groups are calling on their members to contact Representative Robson, Chair of the House Rules Committee. They claim Representative Robson is holding all the bills targeting undocumented immigrants. Rep. Robson says he isn't holding anything, and that the immigration bills are being worked on a daily basis. However, two anti-immigrant bills have passed out of the House (see bills). HB 2589 is especially dangerous and may be a threat to the people with whom we work.

### DEADLINES

When bills come out of Rules may be meaningful. Unless rules are waived, the last day to hear Senate and House bills in committees (other than Appropriation and Rules) is March 16. The last day for conference committees to meet is April 6, and Sine Die is set, however, not in stone, for April 17.

### BILLS

SB 1184 (AHCCCS; trusts) is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Calendar for March 12. It provides for creation of special treatment trusts by elderly whose income is above the AHCCCS limit of 100% of FPL.

HB2681 (utility assistance; qualified fuel fund) stricken from Revised Senate Appropriations agenda for next week. Let's hope it is per rumor included in the feed bill.

Two bills expanding healthcare coverage to low income pregnant mothers are moving.

SB 1361 (AHCCCS; eligibility expanded to 185% of FPL) passed out of Senate Appropriations on a 10-0-1 vote, and awaits Rules. HB 2773 (AHCCCS; children's health insurance program) has passed out of House Rules and has cleared both caucuses. It awaits Floor action. It provides AHCCCS coverage for pregnant women up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

If SB 1361 passes out of Rules and goes to the Floor, HB 2773 could be substituted for it during COW and head off to the Governor.

HB2766 (national guard mobilization; border; appropriation) clarifies that the Governor may mobilize the National Guard to address an emergency if a state of emergency is declared for the protection of the lives and property of Arizonans resulting from an increase in unauthorized border crossings and the related increase in deaths, crime and property damage. It also appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) in FY 2007-08 for expenses incurred by the mobilization.

HB2589 (criminal trespass; day laborers) expands the crime of criminal trespass in the 1st degree to include knowingly standing or remaining unlawfully in specific places for the purpose of soliciting either personal employment or labor for money.

### OTHER BITS

Rep. Robert Meza, D-Phoenix, has been appointed to serve on the Arizona Housing Commission by Speaker Weiers.