



## What's Up in the Legislature

(January 20, 2008)

### **LEGISLATURE**

The Governor has now released her 2009 budget as well as revisions to the 2008 budget. She obviously wants to continue programs in education and health care as a priority. There are few cuts and no calls for tax increases. One way she has of raising money is to place speed-cameras throughout the state; an expected \$80 million in fines for the first year and \$120 the second. Don't drive carefully and help the state.

The Majority in both houses are predictably upset; saying that the income projections for the fiscal years are unrealistic, predicting less revenue on their part and that the governor's budgets are a prescription for disaster.

### **BILLS**

**SB 1002** (state equalization property tax repeal) passed Senate Finance on a party-line vote 5-3-0. It repeals the equalization tax that is in abeyance until 2010. JLBC estimates it would have brought in \$225 million in the FY 2008-09.

**SB 1052** (URS reduction; immigration enforcement) would penalize political subdivisions that require police to enforce immigration laws was held (postponed) by the Senate Public Safety and Human Resources Committee.

### **NEW BILLS of possible interest to SVdP**

**HB 2550** (state earned income tax credit) provides an earned income tax credit for a person meeting requirements of section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code. More information required.

**HB 2571** (low income housing; property tax) provides a lower tax for construction of low income multiple housing. More information required.

**HB 2631** (marriage license; proof of citizenship) Rep. Pearce wants to require proof of citizenship in order for a couple to obtain a marriage license.

**HB 2642** (tax simplification; income tax repeal) repeals the state income tax and replaces it with a value added tax on all transactions. Rep. Murphy et al.

**SB 1103** (lobbyists; prohibited acts) introduced by McCune Davis

This bill prohibits lobbyists from providing information to any public official as to any material fact pertaining to any legislative or administrative action knowing or having reason to know that the information is false.

**SB 1133** (AHCCCS; DES; new hires directory) Introduced by Leff  
The department of economic security and the Arizona health care cost containment system administration may use the information collected pursuant to this section to verify eligibility under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

**SB 1072** (AHCCCS; proof of citizenship) Introduced by Harper, Pearce, Burns & Huppenthal

This requires a state employee to make a written report to federal immigration authorities if the employee discovers any violation of federal immigration law by any applicant for eligibility under this chapter. The administration shall not accept any identification card issued by this state or any political subdivision of this state, including a driver license, to establish identity or determine eligibility unless the issuing authority has verified the immigration status of the applicant. An employee who fails to report discovered violations of federal immigration law is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor. If that employee's supervisor knew of the failure to report and failed to direct the employee to make the report, the supervisor is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor. Any person who is a resident of this state has standing in any court of record to bring suit against the administration to remedy any violation of this subsection, including an action for mandamus. Courts shall give preference to actions brought under this subsection over other civil actions or proceedings pending in the court.

## **COMMITTEES**

The Joint Appropriations Committee will be taking up committee time this week to go over FY 2009 agency budgets. The Department of Economic Security and AHCCCS will be on the griddle January 24 at 9 a.m., in HHR 1.