



What's Up in the Legislature

(February 15, 08)

There is more bad news than good this weekend. All the bad news is based on the Governor's Office prediction that the state's deficit will reach \$1.5 billion for FY 2008. There will be a similar increase in the FY 2009 deficit.

On the good news side there is only one bill on the House Approps agenda for the 20th. It is HCR 2040 (spending accountability and transparency act). This bill would put a number of limits on future expenditures of the state. It was held on February 13, but is back for another try. On the other hand none of the appropriation bills on the cancelled Appropriations agenda are back for the 20th meeting.

Friday February 29 is the last day to hear Senate bills in Senate committees and House bills in House committees unless the Speaker and President approve a special meeting. The exceptions are Rules and Appropriations.

HCM 2012 (Arizona temporary worker program) is up in House FII. It urges Congress to pass enabling legislation allowing Arizona to set up a guest worker program. Please support this bill.

The Senate FII committee will hear two Pay Day loan bills at 1:30 on Monday the 18th. They are:

SB1239 (deferred presentment transactions; regulations) by Senator Blendu requires some Pay Day loan statistics and sets the termination date from 2010 to 2012. There are two amendments to the bill from Senator McCune Davis.

SB1492 (payday loans; repeal termination date) By Senator Gorman to remove the termination, Sunset, of the Pay Day loan companies entirely. It makes no change in the regulation of the companies.

SVdP VOP is opposed to both of these bills.