

SVDP VOICE OF THE POOR

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING FOR WEEK OF 1/25/10

BY TOM FINNERTY

GOOD THING

HB 2161, the payday loan bill unanimously opposed by the SVdP board, was **not** heard in House Banking and Insurance on Monday, January 25. A call was received at 12:45 from Chairman McClain's office. VOP members en route to the capitol did U turns and are watching to see when the bill is rescheduled. Word has it that the bill was pulled because of a lack of votes to get it out of committee. Stay tuned...and thanks to those of you who called or e-mailed in opposition. It helped big-time.

MORE GOOD THINGS

Arizona religious leaders met last Friday in Casa Grande to call on the president and Congress to enact immigration reform. Bishop Gerald Kicanas, Diocese of Tucson, addressed the group and stated that reform should have the following points: support for programs reducing poverty in developing nations, a process for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. to earn legal status and citizenship, and reducing the detention of immigrants for non-violent crimes. Meanwhile, there are 5-6 bills pending at the AZ legislature largely proposing enforcement provisions not adopted in the past.

WANTED LEGISLATIVE "Flow Chart"

Congressman Shadegg has opted not to run again, and the world is alive with the sound of new candidates. So far we have Sens. Jim Waring, Pamela Gorman, Reps Adam Driggs, Sam Crump, and Paradise Valley Mayor, Vernon Parker (who has decided he would rather be a U.S. Representative than AZ Governor).

Sen. Jonathon Paton of Tucson wants to take on U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords.

Reps. Nancy Barto and Ray Barnes both want to be appointed to the state senate to replace Jim Waring. Rep. Carl Seel wants to replace Gorman, and Rep. Antenori wants to replace Paton.

And, former Congressman J.D. Hayworth has announced he will challenge Senator John McCain.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK:

HB 2161 (payday loans; regulation) Tobin NOT HEARD (House B & I 1/25/10 HHR 5 2:00 P.M.)

HB 2210 (landlord tenant obligations; pest control)Adopts a statewide policy on treatment procedures for infestations. Reagan Campbell (House Commerce 1/27/10 HHR 5 9 a.m.)

HB 2384 (immigration laws; local law enforcement)Boone, Ash, Barnes,et al (House Judiciary 1/28/10 HHR 4 9 a.m.)Prohibits local political subdivisions from prohibiting or hindering the enforcement of federal immigration laws by their public safety personnel.

HB 2250 (Arizona's job recovery act) Adams, Antenori, Ash, (total of 38 sponsors). WM, RULES Creates a new Arizona Job Training Program, the Arizona Quality Jobs Program, and the Arizona Opportunity Fund; expands the type of businesses that qualify for Enterprise Zone tax incentives. Financing by the following tax reductions: reduces the Class 1 property assessment ratios from 20% to 15% over five years beginning in TY 2012; phases down the state equalization property tax over three years; decreases the corporate income tax rate from 6.968% to 4.5% over four years beginning in TY 2011; and lowers the individual income tax by 10% over four years beginning in TY 2011.

Senate

SCR 1022 (legislative appropriation; federal monies)Melvin

Senate Appropriations 1/26/10 1:30 P.M. ROOM: SHR 109Authorizes the Legislature to appropriate non-custodial (pass through) federal monies. Requires, if the Legislature does not appropriate these monies for a specific fund, grant program or block, the budget unit that has lawful authority shall administer and spend the monies pursuant to federal and state law.