

Weekly Legislative Briefing for Period Ending March 28, 2010

Governor Brewer has issued a call for the 8th Special Session of the 2nd Regular Session of the 49th Legislature. It starts today. No folks, this is not a record number of specials yet.

The Governor's press release quotes her as follows, "Arizonans are increasingly concerned and alarmed about the rapid and dramatic expansion of the federal government into their personal lives. This massive new federal mandate (Health Care Reform) is a threat to our individual freedoms, and state sovereignty as well as a devastating new cost to our state budget."

The Special is needed because Attorney General Goddard refused to join the thirteen other attorneys general suing over the new Health Care Reform Act. Goddard stated, "Our lawyers agree with the overwhelming majority of constitutional scholars of both parties that the lawsuits have little merit and that participating in them would be a waste of scarce taxpayer dollars." Goddard said in a statement, "These lawsuits will be considered in federal court with or without Arizona's participation."

The Governor has not yet called a Special Session to amend the budget to repeal the restrictions on eligibility on AHCCCS and KidsCare. These reductions in the federal *maintenance of effort requirements* will cost Arizona millions of dollars in federal monies that would otherwise be available to provide health care to these populations.

In other news Speaker Adams has removed Rep. David Patterson (D-Tucson) from his seat on the Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee. He apparently questioned Senator Russell Pearce about grant funds Pearce is seeking to purchase seismic sensor equipment for use around border area roads and airports to detect drug and human smuggling. As noted in the Action Alert above, SB 1070 will be heard on Wednesday in House Military Affairs and Public Safety (now 5 R's and 2 D's with the removal of Patterson).