

## SVdP Voice of the Poor WEEKLY REPORT for 04 03 10

### A Rash of “Strike Everything Bills” \* on Significant Topics

#### Third Bill on Payday Lending

On Wednesday, April 7 at 1:30 in SHR 3, the Senate Committee on Finance is scheduled to hear a Strike Everything Amendment (consumer loans; origination fees) to HB 2035 (university athletic facilities district) sponsored by Warde Nichols. This is the payday loan bill back again for the **third** time this session. The amendment (ie, bill provisions) have **not** been posted (Sunday evening 8:30 p.m.). This could be a LONG meeting with 30 bills on the agenda, 8 of which are strikers. *Please watch for an Action Alert on this bill in the next 48 hours.*

#### One Cent Sales Tax Increase vs. “Jobs Bill”

On the same agenda for Senate Finance is HB 2250 (Arizona’s job recovery act) by Adams, Antenori, Ash, et al with A Strike Everything on the same subject. (This amendment has also **not** been posted). HB 2250, basically the Speaker’s bill, would reduce property taxes, the state income tax for individuals and corporate income taxes totaling approximately \$1 billion per year from Arizona’s tax base. The bill passed the House 34 to 25 along party lines. *That is about the amount of revenue that will be raised if the one- cent state sales tax increase is approved on May 18.* Democrats in the legislature and Attorney General Goddard have stated they will not support the sales tax increase if HB 2250 passes because it would essentially shift the \$1 billion tax burden to Arizonans of all income levels by increasing the sales tax while decreasing taxes elsewhere in the budget.

#### Another Strike Everything Bill – SB 1070 (immigration)

As reported earlier, the three bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference and the Society’s Diocesan Council stand in opposition to two of the more onerous immigration bills introduced this session. The identical bills, HB 2632 and SB 1070, sponsored by Russell Pearce have passed their respective houses along party lines. Apparently concerns about language in these bills led to consideration of SB 1070 as a Strike Everything Bill last week in House Military Affairs and Public Safety. Despite opposition by the Arizona Association of Police Chiefs, the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, numerous cities, the Arizona Catholic Conference, the Diocesan Board of St. Vincent de Paul, Valley Interfaith Project and various border groups, the bill passed 5 to 2 with no amendments. Essentially the word “trespassing” as applied to undocumented persons has been omitted and replaced by a section making presence in Arizona without adequate identification a crime.

*SB 1070 will now be sent to House COW. Please watch for an Action Alert with more detail.*

**\*WHAT is a Strike Everything Amendments (“striker”)?** These amendments (more accurately bills) are used toward the end of the legislative session to introduce bills past the adopted filing deadlines. This involves taking a bill that has not advanced (or purposefully introduced at the beginning of the session as the vehicle for a striker) and “amending” it – ie., replacing its entire contents. Senate rules require that the striker amendment must be posted 48 hours in advance of a hearing.

### **Arizona to Sue Feds**

On April 1 the Legislature adjourned its 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session having voted to authorize (again on straight party lines) the governor to sue the federal government over the recently passed healthcare bill. The bill, SCM 1001 (health care; choice; litigation; authorization) allows the Governor rather than the Attorney General to file the suit requesting repeal of the healthcare bill. The suit will cost Arizona approximately \$3 million.