



Voice of the Poor

WEEKLY REPORT for 04 25 10

Sine Di Around the Corner?

The only standing committees at the state legislature scheduled to meet this week, so far, are Senate committees hearing executive nominations. That being the case Sine Die cannot be far off.

The GOOD

SB 1043 (tax anticipation bonds; technical correction)

Strike Everything title: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

This bill's primary purpose is to restore KidsCare (maintaining health care for 39,000 children) and prevent over 300,000 low income Arizonans from being dropped by AHCCCS.

The legislature is moving forward with this budget reversal in order to keep Arizona eligible for federal matching funds for health care of \$7 billion. SB 1043 has passed House Health and Human Resources and been declared Constitutional and Proper by House Rules. It needs to be caucused and go to the Floor. It is not on any scheduled Floor Calendars yet.

The BAD

SCR 1009 (publicly financed elections; prohibition)

This bill was amended in House committee to send it to the people to repeal the Clean Election System. The bill was defeated when it only prohibited the use of public funds in elections.

The UGLY

SB 1070 [immigration; law enforcement; safe neighborhoods

(NOW: safe neighborhoods; immigration; law enforcement)

The bill has been signed into law by Governor Brewer despite pleas from just about the entire religious community including the three bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference (Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix, Bishop Kicanas of Tucson and Bishop Wall of Gallup) and the diocesan board of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In a memo dated 4/26/10, Tucson Bishop Gerald Kicanas stated he believes SB 1070 should be challenged because it:

- *does not address the critical need for border security to confront drug smuggling, weapons smuggling and human trafficking;*
- *sends the wrong message about how our State regards the importance of civil rights;*
- *distracts our local law enforcement from their primary role as protectors of public safety;*
- *puts unnecessary pressure on the already depleted resources of local law enforcement*
- *discourages reporting of crimes by persons who lack citizenship documentation;*
- *creates the risk that families might be split;*
- *makes criminals out of migrant children and teens who had no choice but to accompany their parents here in their search for a better life;*
- *and creates risk of further harm to our State's economy*

Several groups have come forward to contest the bill in the courts. Without an injunction, SB 1070 will become law 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature Sine Di.

Please vote “YES” on Proposition 100

Arizona's economic recovery is predicted to lag that of most other states meaning state revenue will continue to be low. Proposition 100 asks for approval of a temporary state sales tax increase of 1 cent for three years to pump \$1 billion for public safety and education in the state's coffers. Without this additional revenue, cuts to schools and public safety will be even more devastating.

