



What's happening April 19, 2009

THE LEGISLATURE

The budget logjam may be breaking up. The Senate Appropriations Committee is holding a meeting on Thursday April 23 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.

There will be ten bills on the agenda; the majority being budget reconciliation bills that are the vehicles to make legal changes for the budget. Does this mean the process has finally opened up to public inspection? The Strike Everything Amendments that will be placed on these vehicles has not yet been placed on the legislative website.. Only President Burns and Chairman Pearce know what is in them.

The bills with the Strike Everything titles are as follows:

SB 1027 (capital outlay; FY 2009-2010)

SB 1028 ((budget reconciliation; criminal justice)

SB 1029 (budget reconciliation; higher education)

SB 1031 (budget reconciliation; assets)

SB 1035 (budget reconciliation; general government)

SB 1036 (budget reconciliation; general revenues)

SB 1187 (budget reconciliation; K-12)

SB 1188 (general appropriations; FY 2009-2010)

SB 1189 (budget reconciliation; health and welfare)

SB 1190 (budget reconciliation; environment)

Without seeing the amendments, we can only speculate that the majority has found 16 votes that generally follow the idea that they will have an early prisoner release program, and sell some state assets. We have no way of knowing how much is being considered in cuts for higher education, K-12 (elementary education) health and welfare, and environmental programs.

Bishop Olsted and Bishop Kicanas Weigh In on State Budget Crisis

Recognizing the very deep State budget deficit Arizona faces, Bishops Olmsted and Kicanas have sent a letter to Governor Brewer, House Speaker Adams and Senate President Burns asking that fiscal solutions not endangering Arizona's most vulnerable be identified. The letter was also sent to all members of the Legislature. The full text of the bishops' letter can be found at www.arizonacatholicconference.org

SVdP Voice of the Poor urges you to call or e-mail your State Legislators!

- *Programs serving Arizona's poorest and most vulnerable should NOT be cut.*
- *The legislature should act immediately to accept additional unemployment benefits and additional funding for AHCCCS that are part of the federal stimulus package.*

Who are my state legislators?

Every voter in Arizona has three state legislators – one senator and two representatives. If you are not sure of your district or elected representatives, you can obtain this information in one of two ways:

1. **Call (602) 926-3559 (weekdays) and give your street address.**
2. **If you have internet service, go to www.azleg.gov. Click on "Who are my legislators?" and type in your zip code + 4 digits.**