



What's Up in the Legislature

(February 28, 2009)

BILL ALERTS

OPPOSE HB2608 (small installment loan act)

By Biggs et al.

This bill is in Banking and Insurance on Monday, March 2, at 2 p.m. *This bill is nearly identical to the payday loan proposition the voters recently shot down with a whopping 60% nay.* (The payday loan industry spent \$12 million to push the proposition and the opponents spent \$400,000). SVdP opposes HB2608 because it will extend predatory triple digit lending in AZ until 2017; this type of lending is due to expire in 2010 when current enabling legislation expires. Maximum interest charged in AZ will then revert to 36% (the case now in 15 states and the District of Columbia). **Please call or e-mail members of the Banking and Insurance Committee and tell them to vote NO!**

Chair: Rep. Nancy McClain (R-Dist. 3) nmclain@azleg.gov (602) 926-5051

Vice Chair: Doug Quelland (R-Dist 10) dquelland@azleg.gov (602) 926-3024

Rep. Cecil Ash (R-Dist. 18) cash@azleg.gov (602) 926-3160

Rep. David Bradley (D-Dist. 28) dbradley@azleg.gov (602) 926-3300

Rep. Robert Meza (D-Dist. 14) rmeza@azleg.gov (602) 926-3425

Rep. Cloves Campbell (D-Dist 16) clcampbell@azleg.gov (602) 926-3042

Rep. Carl Seel (R-Dist. 6) cseel@azleg.gov (602) 926-3018

Rep. Andrew Tobin (R-Dist 1) atobin@azleg.gov (602) 926-5172

SUPPORT HB2547 (housing trust fund; donations)

By (Campbell CH et al Lujan, Sinema, et al)

This bill will be heard in House Commerce Wednesday March 4, at 9 a.m.

It allows a person to donate an amount from the person's escrow account to the housing trust fund for the purpose of assisting the homeless in obtaining housing. If a person makes a donation pursuant to this subsection, an escrow agent may disburse the donated amount from the escrow account at the close of escrow for deposit in the housing trust fund.

SVdP supports this legislation. Please ask members of the House Commerce to approve this bill:

Michele Reagan, Chairman (R-Dist. 8) mreagan@azleg.gov (602) 926-5828

Laurin Hendrix, Vice Chair (R-Dist. 22) lhendrix@azleg.gov (602) 926-5735

Olivia Cajero Bedford (D-Dist. 27) ocajerobedford@azleg.gov (602) 926-5835

Chad Campbell (D-Dist. 14) chcampbell@azleg.gov (602) 926-3026

Rich Crandall (R-Dist. 19) rcrandall@azleg.gov (602) 926-3020

Bill Konopnicki (R-Dist. 5) bkonopnicki@azleg.gov (602) 926-5409

Robert Meza (D-Dist. 14) rmeza@azleg.gov (602) 92603425

Frank Pratt (R-Dist. 23) fpratt@azleg.gov (602) 926-5761

SUPPORT HB 2286 (charitable tax credit; elimination of baseline year)

By eliminating the "baseline year", HB 2286 will work like the Arizona school tax credit and will not require increased giving year after year in order to receive the tax credit. The amount allowed as a charitable tax credit to non-profits serving the working poor (like SVdP) will be \$200 per person or \$400 per couple annually. *The bill has passed all committees and is expected to be heard in the House in the near future.* Please contact your two elected representatives and urge them to support HB 2286. (You can find your elected reps by going to www.AZLeg.gov and clicking on "How do I find my Legislators"? on the left).

AMENDMENT PENDING: Please watch for additional information on HCR 2014

HCR 2014 [state trust lands; technical correction (NOW: health care freedom act)] Rep Barto This is a **Strike Everything** amendment to the bill entitled "**health care freedom act.**" The amendment has not yet been posted. As an HCR it would be a proposition that must be placed on the ballot and results in a change to the State Constitution. There is concern that this bill will allow the purchase of insurance from insurers not regulated by the AZ State Insurance

Department so long as they are regulated by the department of the state in which they are domiciled. This means they would not be required to meet Arizona requirements. New Born Infant coverage would not be a requirement for these insurers. There are other coverages mandated by the legislature that these insurers would not need to cover.

The House committee on Health and Human Resources meets on Wednesday March 4, at 8 a.m.

This week Senate committees will be hearing testimony as to how the Stimulus Package will affect various Arizona agencies.

What *Else* is Happening?

Governor Jan Brewer has announced that she will address the Legislature on Wednesday afternoon, March 4. The topic will be the catastrophic nature of the state's economy and budget. She will, according to the experts, tell how she wants to address the budget problems. Many believe this will put her on a collision course with some members of the Legislature since she may advocate for a temporary sales tax increase. Don't forget the 39 no tax-increase pledgers in the House and Senate. She will also be looking at cuts and permission for the Legislature to cut back or eliminate voter-mandated programs whenever they believe they have an emergency. This will not be an easy sell at this point in time.

There are many members in the Legislature who are still pushing for the repeal of the \$250+ property tax on business. They have also introduced a number of tax credits and tax cuts for a variety of businesses. These no-tax increase people feel this is the right time to cut the size of state government by eliminating programs.

The Governor has asked agency heads to tell her the effect of cuts of 5, 10, 15, and 20 percent on their agencies. She apparently doesn't want legislators to again complain that they had no idea of the effects that budget cuts would have on programs like child care and children's health. Governor Brewer has indicated that she wants to use \$25 million of the Stimulus Package for child care services.