



## What's Up in the Legislature

(February 16, 2009)

The Governor's office has let leak a possible call for a special election in March. The object of the election would be to pass a temporary sales tax and also to allow the Legislature to dip into budgets and revenue sources for voter-mandated programs. A temporary increase in taxes is a good move. A permanent grant of authority to the Legislature to use voter-mandated programs whenever it decides there is an emergency is something the voters have twice rejected.

Response is varied. The Majority appears to think the idea is good; the Minority is concerned with the language on any emergency powers to the Legislature on the voter-mandated programs.

The House has introduced 629 bills and the Senate has introduced 469. This is an acknowledgement that there will not be a lot of bills passed this year.

### **BILLS**

Voice of the Poor recommends Two "AYEs" and Two "Nays":

The House Rules Committee is hearing *HB 2286 (tax credit; charitable organizations)* today. This bill will terminate the so-called baseline for tax credits to charitable institutions. It will be on the Floor later this week. SVdP supports this bill since it would make the charitable tax credit for non-profits serving the working poor much easier to use. *E-mail or call your Representatives and urge them to vote aye.*

Also up in House Government committee is *HB 2269 (landlords; tenants; foreclosures)*. This bill requires notification to a tenant when a landlord sells the property or the property goes into foreclosure. It gives the tenant rights to their deposits if the new owner terminates their lease. *Please contact your Representatives in support of HB 2269.*

On Wednesday, House Health and Human Services will be hearing *HB 2237 AHCCCS; verification of eligibility* and *HB 2238 (AHCCCS; DES; fraud reduction)*. Both these bills sound like they will end problems. In fact they place more red tape on agencies that have fired large numbers of employees and placed others on unpaid

furloughs. SVdP is opposed to both. *Please contact your Legislators and ask them to vote nay on these measures.*

**Who are my legislators?**

Go to [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) and click on “How do I find or contact my legislators?” found on the left-hand column. You will have two State representatives and one State senator. E-mail and phone numbers are listed for each member.