



Arizona Hospitals Nearing Capacity

ICU beds nearing capacity

The chief clinical officer of Banner health warned officials that Arizona is headed towards a health crisis if residents do not change their habits combatting COVID-19. Citing a sharp increase in cases, Dr. Marjorie Bessel indicated that intensive care units at Banner Health hospitals in Maricopa County are at full capacity and other hospitals are rapidly approaching that point. Bessel cautioned that if capacity is exceeded, the most immediate result would be hospitals halting major elective surgeries.

In response to the recent report by Banner Health officials, AZDHS Director Christ advised hospitals to prepare for crisis care and to suspend elective surgeries if they are experiencing a shortage of staff or bed capacity. Hospitals have been notified to fully activate their emergency plans, consistent with an executive order from the Governor that calls for expanding hospital bed capacity, first by 25% and then by 50%. It is unclear how many hospitals throughout the state have put plans in place to expand their bed capacity beyond 25%.

Director Christ urged hospitals to adopt other measures including:

- Maintaining and implementing plans to staff the "surge" beds needed to increase capacity.
- Continuing to identify additional ICU and inpatient beds to meet the 50% additional bed increase as required by Ducey's executive order.
- Refining hospital admission criteria to allow management of patients in

- alternate care settings within the community.
- Identifying mechanisms to activate medical volunteers and integrate them into the facility.
- Evaluating supplies and equipment and creating facility guidance for optimization of scarce resources.
- Ensuring efficient triage processes to relieve excess burdens on emergency rooms.
- Implementing triage tents, triage hotlines, outpatient referral, and other alternate triage strategies outside the emergency department.
- Expanding behavioral health case management capacity to reduce the number and duration of psychiatric holds.

To read the letter from AZDHS Director Christ click [here](#).

Democrats call for addressing policing reform

In response to the George Floyd protests, Senate and House Democrats called upon Governor Ducey to address police reform during any upcoming special session. In a letter addressed to the Governor, lawmakers wrote “as elected leaders with the ability and power to elicit change, we must commit ourselves to do better, to listen and learn from those closest to this pain and turn that into action”. The group of lawmakers specifically wants to add state-level requirements such as mandatory police cameras, automatic independent investigations into deadly use of force, a statewide database of police officers and their disciplinary records, and limits on qualified immunity for officers in justifying the use of force.

Governor Ducey has been in contact with Legislative leadership over matters that need to be addressed during any special session. Per the Arizona Constitution, the Governor may issue a special session call that specifies the subjects and scope of work to address.

As more information becomes available, we will update you.

May revenue forecast numbers arrive

In March, analysts predicted that Arizona would face at least a \$1.1 billion budget shortfall due to the pandemic but latest revenue data provided by JLBC suggest otherwise. In the JLBC preliminary May update, officials show that revenues are \$163 million more than expected. Originally, analysts predicted that April sales tax collections would decline 43 percent; however, they were only down about 10 percent from last year. In total, combined with April revenue forecast numbers and the recent May report, the state gained \$432 million. The complete JLBC FY20-2021 budget report will be released next week. To read the JLBC May highlight report click [here](#).

Governor signs remaining bills

The Governor has signed the final 32 Senate bills that were passed by the House at the end of May. Key bills signed include legislation to expand the Arizona Teachers Academy, enhance suicide prevention training for school counselors and social workers, and improve administration of Arizona's 529 College Savings Program.

Lawmakers introduced a total of 1,607 bills this session but only 90 were passed by the Legislature. There were no vetoes.

Remaining bills signed by the Governor are found here:

- **S.B. 1012 (Chapter 59)**: executive session; school safety plans (sponsor- Senator Borrelli).
- **S.B. 1021 (Chapter 60)**: department of revenue; electronic signatures (sponsor- Senator Ugenti-Rita).
- **S.B. 1040 (Chapter 61)**: insurers; notices methods of deliver (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1041 (Chapter 62)**: travel insurance (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1042 (Chapter 63)**: executive sessions; security pans (sponsor- Senator Borelli).
- **S.B. 1061 (Chapter 64)**: schools; parental rights; postings (sponsor- Senator Allen).
- **S.B. 1062 (Chapter 65)**: insurance transactions; discrimination; exemptions (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1083 (Chapter 66)**: agriculture department; livestock loss board (sponsor- Senator Allen).
- **S.B. 1090 (Chapter 67)**: insurance adjusters; claims certificate (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1091 (Chapter 68)**: insurance producer licensing; surrender; application (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1096 (Chapter 69)**: property management records; residential rentals (sponsor- Senator Pace).
- **S.B. 1099 (Chapter 70)**: tax deed land sales; proceeds (sponsor- Senator Mesnard).
- **S.B. 1121 (Chapter 71)**: model city tax code; procedure (sponsor- Senator Leach).
- **S.B. 1131 (Chapter 72)**: certified public accountants (sponsor- Senator Gray).
- **S.B. 1210 (Chapter 73)**: assisted living; caregivers; training (sponsor- Senator Pace).
- **S.B. 1236 (Chapter 74)**: adult adoption; stepchildren (sponsor- Senator Gowan).
- **S.B. 1274 (Chapter 75)**: professional regulatory boards; composition (sponsor- Senator Ugenti-Rita).
- **S.B. 1292 (Chapter 76)**: financial literacy; state treasurer; fund (sponsor- Senator Allen).
- **S.B. 1303 (Chapter 77)**: annexation of territory; requirements (sponsor-

- **S.B. 1305 (Chapter 78):** personal delivery devices (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1354 (Chapter 79):** public retirement systems; prefunding plan (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1397 (Chapter 80):** insurance; preexisting condition exclusions; prohibition (sponsor- Senator Mesnard).
- **S.B. 1441 (Chapter 81):** protection orders; modification; residence possession (sponsor- E. Farnsworth).
- **S.B. 1445 (Chapter 82):** suicide prevention training; school employees (sponsor- Senator Bowie).
- **S.B. 1446 (Chapter 83):** student identification cards; suicide employees (sponsor- Senator Bowie).
- **S.B. 1460 (Chapter 84):** electric cooperatives; broadband service (sponsor- Senator Borrelli).
- **S.B. 1492 (Chapter 85):** Arizona teachers academy; program pathways (sponsor- Senator Boyer).
- **S.B. 1504 (Chapter 86):** fingerprinting; vital records; child care (sponsor- Senator Brophy McGee).
- **S.B. 1510 (Chapter 87):** public contracts; payment methods (sponsor- Senator Livingston).
- **S.B. 1528 (Chapter 88):** family college savings program; treasurer (sponsor- Senator Leach).
- **S.B. 1555 (Chapter 89):** support order; dishonest payment; lien (sponsor- Senator E. Farnsworth).
- **S.B. 1557 (Chapter 90):** annuity transactions; requirements (sponsor- Senator Livingston).

Initiatives qualify for November election

Two citizen led initiatives crossed the minimum signature threshold this week to qualify for the November 3rd election. Invest in Ed and Second Chances Rehabilitation and Public Safety collected the necessary 237,645 signatures before the July 2nd deadline. The two initiatives accompany Smart and Safe Arizona as the only referendums this cycle to qualify for the ballot.

Invest in Education was launched by education leaders around the state which aims at raising \$940 million a year for K-12 schools. The measure would create a 3.5% tax surcharge for single individuals making more than \$250,000 or married couples making more than \$500,000. The current income tax rate in Arizona for someone making \$159,001 or more is 4.5%. Arizona's average income tax rate is one of the lowest in the nation. The language can be found [here](#).

Second Chances Rehabilitation and Public Safety is a measure launched by criminal justice reform advocates that involves "earned release credits," which offenders can use to cut down their prison sentences. Offenders currently have to serve at least 85% of their sentences under Arizona's "truth in sentencing"

law, with a chance to spend the remainder under community supervision. The referendum if passed could cut nonviolent offenders' sentences by up to 50%, with participants earning a one-day reduction for every day served. The language can be found [here](#).

Department of Economic Security announces new plan

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced the availability of further unemployment compensation for those who have exhausted unemployment insurance and are still unemployed. Launched on June 7th, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) fund provides a 13-week extension of benefits. Last week DES officials issued the largest weekly amount of unemployment benefits. A total of \$748.7 million was distributed to unemployment insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claimants -- "PUA covers non-traditional workers such as self employed or independent contractors".

Here are some of the eligibility requirements for PEUC:

- PEUC is available to those who have exhausted UI benefits on or after July 6, 2019, and have experienced continued unemployment after March 29, 2020.
- PEUC is available until December 26, 2020.
- Individuals who have exhausted UI benefits between February 2, 2020, and March 28, 2020, may also be eligible for additional benefits through PUA prior to the March 29, 2020, effective date for PEUC.

For more information on how to apply for PEUC services click [here](#).



Governor Ducey Provides COVID-19 Update



Arizona Update on Issues



Click here to find COVID-19 resources and volunteer opportunities

Click here to find out how to donate a mobile hotspot

Upcoming Legislators' Birthdays



Happy Birthday
Sen. Dalessandro (D)
Sunday, June 7th

Representing LD2, Senator Dalessandro was first elected to the Legislature in 2012 and is serving her last term in the Senate. A New Jersey native, she earned her BA and MA in mathematics education from Jersey City State College and her MBA from Rutgers University. Prior to beginning her political career, she was a CPA and taught accounting courses at the State University of New Jersey. At the Legislature, Dalessandro is a member of the Senate Education, Judiciary and Natural Resources committees. This session her top legislative priority was SB1471 which required the Secretary of



Happy Birthday
Rep. Steve Pierce (R)
Tuesday, June 9th

Representing LD1, Representative Pierce was appointed to his current seat in March of 2019. Before his appointment by the county supervisors, Pierce was a former State Senator who was elected by his peers to serve as Senate President in 2013 and Majority Whip in 2009. At the Legislature, he is a member of the House Government and Natural Resources Committee. This session his top legislative priority was HB2478 which would have authorized the board of supervisors of a county with a population of less than 500,000 to levy a tax on the gross proceeds of sales or income from a

State to provide a system for qualified electors to sign initiative and referendum petitions by way of a secure internet portal. To wish Senator Dalessandro happy birthday: adalessandro@azleg.gov

business. Under the provisions, the county would have been required to use revenues collected from the tax to promote and enhance tourism and for economic development purposes. To wish Representative Pierce happy birthday: spierce@azleg.gov

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