



Senate Adjourns Sine Die

Historic session ends

The Senate today adjourned *sine die* which officially puts the 2020 Legislative session to a close. Last week after the House reconvened for the first time since March 23rd to vote on remaining legislation; President Fann before the holiday weekend originally intended to vote on a dozen of unamended Senate bills approved by the House to transmit to the Governor and then adjourn *sine die*. However, in a 16-14 vote this morning; Senator's Boyer, Brophy McGee and Carter joined with Senate Democrats to end all business in the 2020 Legislative session.

By ending the session without voting on remaining legislative items, it kills all House bills passed last week that were not yet to be voted in the Senate chamber. Before adjourning, President Fann had already decided not to hear two pieces of new legislation related to COVID-19 that the House passed last week. Sponsored by Representative Kavanaugh, HB2912 would have provided new legal protections to businesses that reopen amid the pandemic. And sponsored by Representative Udall, HB2913 would have directed \$88 million in federal funding to child care facilities. In total, only 89 bills were passed by both chambers this session which is one of the lowest in recent memory.

Governor Ducey is expected to call a special session to assess COVID-19 relief appropriations and other budgetary items. As per the Arizona Constitution, the Governor will call the session into order with a set agenda on the items and scope of work to address. Lawmakers are expecting the Governor to call at least one special session on COVID-19 and economic related issues; but there is a possibility that another will be called later this summer to address ongoing budgetary concerns. Speaker Bowers is expecting at least two special sessions, likely beginning in mid-June, by which time lawmakers will have access to the most recent state revenue data from the Finance Advisory Committee. By then, lawmakers will have a better estimate of the state's budgetary shortfall which, as of the most recent estimate, could range from around \$500 million to around \$1.5 billion.

As more updates become affirmative, I will update you on any changes.

Governor hopes to reopen schools in the fall

Governor Ducey remains hopeful that schools will have the ability to reopen come fall. At a press conference, the Governor emphasized that Arizona is headed in the right direction as COVID-19 cases continue to decline. The state's goal is open up summer camps, schools and youth activities as soon as possible however, that will not be until Phase 2. Governor Ducey and Superintendent Hoffman have been working together to come up with a comprehensive reopening for district schools statewide and ADE has already convened a special

task force dedicated solely to this purpose. As more information becomes available, I will update you!

April revenue forecast numbers arrive

Last month after the Finance Advisory Committee predicted a \$1.1 billion budget shortfall by the end of FY21, April revenue numbers have arrived. According to a recent JLBC report, April revenues were \$268 million above the committee's revenue forecast. Sales tax deposits representing March sales totaled \$444 million, or \$53 million more than expected. Despite last month's numbers, the state still faces a large deficit due to the pandemic. AHCCCS caseloads have increased by 77,700, or 4.3 percent since March and Arizona's unemployment rate jumped to a staggering 15% — far higher than the worst period of the 2008 Great Recession. To read the JLBC report click [here](#).

ADHS receives grant from CDC

ADHS announced that Arizona received an \$150 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding for the grant is supported by the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020. Prior to the grant, the CDC has been instrumental in providing support to ADHS and has awarded over \$28 million to the Department. Since the pandemic began, ADHS has expanded testing and to date, 220,612 people have been tested in Arizona with 161,571 diagnostic tests and 59,041 serology tests. ADHS has been working with local public health departments to expand contact tracing, which helps to identify close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 so they can self isolate and prevent the spread of the disease to others. For information about Arizona's response to COVID-19 click [here](#).

Children In Out-Of-Home-Care receive support

Governor Ducey announced that more than \$100,000 in funding from the Arizona Coronavirus Relief Fund will be allocated to organizations that support foster care families. According to the Governor's Office, the funding will be used to support increased demand for supplies, services and educational needs for the more than 14,000 Arizona kids in out-of-home care and the families who care for them. Recipients of this funding grant include Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation and Boost a Foster Family. To date, the fund has collected more than \$8.2 million since it was enacted by the Governor in April. For more information on the AZ Coronavirus Relief Fund click [here](#).

Arizona pays out record number of unemployment benefits

Arizona paid more than half a billion dollars in jobless benefits as unemployment claims continue to rise. In total \$519 million was paid to 468,000 people which was more than a \$300 million increase from the week prior. The reason for the sharp increase is due to the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which is now being administered by the state. PUA applies to Arizonans who are self-employed, freelancers or independent contractors – in total \$355 million was paid from PUA funds. Prior to the pandemic, Arizona paid about \$3 million a week in jobless benefits and saw about 4,000 new applications. For more information about how to apply for UI and PUA click [here](#).



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
Rep. Randall Friese (D)
Tuesday, May 26th

Representing LD9, Representative Friese was first elected to the House in 2015 and serves as assistant minority leader. A trauma surgeon, Friese received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a master of science in clinical sciences from the University of Texas Southwestern Graduate School in 2008. At the Legislature, he is a member of the House appropriations and Joint Legislative Budget committees. This session his top legislative priority was HCR2018 which would have carried the question of whether to amend state statute to require parties to a prospective firearms sale or transfer to complete the transaction through a licensed firearms dealer if neither party is a licensed firearms dealer. To wish Representative Friese happy birthday: rfriese@azleg.gov



Happy Birthday
Rep. Gail Griffin (R)
Wednesday, June 3rd

Representing LD14, Representative Griffin was first elected to the Arizona House in 1997 and then the Senate in 2011. Born in Pennsylvania, Griffin first moved to Arizona in 1968 and has been a Real Estate Broker for over 40 years. Throughout her political career, Griffin has received many awards for her service which includes "Senator of the Year" from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), "Legislator of the Year" from Arizona Rural Health Association and also from the Arizona Mining Association. At the Legislature, she serves as Chairman of the House Natural Resources committee and is Vice Chairman of the House Federal Relations committee. This session her top legislative priority was HB2591 which would have made a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000 from the general fund in FY2020-21 to each community college district located in a county with a population of less than

500,000 persons in order to enhance public safety for the district. To wish Representative Griffin happy birthday: ggriffin@azleg.gov

Arizona Governmental Affairs

Address:

99 E. Virginia Avenue, #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.296.5966

[E-mail AZ Governmental](#)