



Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

2021

Legislative Update

Your ACDHH update on policy making at the Arizona State Capitol

Week of January 15, 2021

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The 55th Legislative Session has officially begun!

Since 2021 has been an extension of 2020 so far, and the pandemic is still around, this legislative session will look much differently than it ever has before!

Both chambers are committed to ensuring proper social distancing and keeping members, staff, and the public safe. In an effort to minimize the amount of people in the buildings, both the Senate President and the Speaker of the House have issued rules limiting the number of individuals in the buildings, requiring of masks to be worn inside, and allowing for remote participation. With the changes being made due to the pandemic, everyone at the capitol is shifting and learning how to engage the public through technology platforms. Both chambers are doing a hybrid model this year legislative session. The system is not perfect by any means and the hopes as the session goes along, many of the technical glitches will be fixed. For now, staff and leadership are asking for patience as they navigate this new hybrid process.

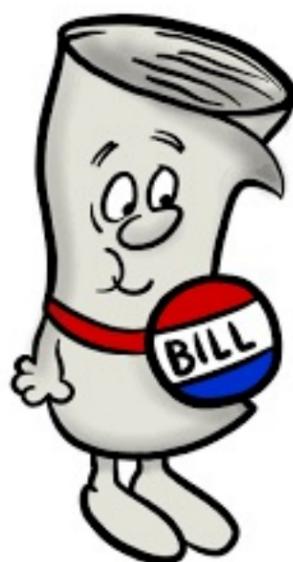
Both the Senate and the House have a process in place to allow for those who wish to testify on a bill being heard in committee, can still do so, but it will require advance planning. Folks will still need to make their request to speak in

the RTS system, and if choosing speak remotely, to indicate in comments it will be REMOTELY. As well as emailing the dedicated committee address at least 24 hours in advance of the committee hearing. This process is to share a secured Zoom link for testifying ONLY.

The ACDHH is currently working with staff at each of the chambers on how accessibility will be provided, shall a member of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community wish to testify with the new hybrid model. As more information is known, we will be sure to share.



With the current COVID restrictions at the Senate and House, if you would like to set up an account with the Request to Speak system and cannot go down to the state capitol, We would be more than happy to set one up for you, email your request at ACDHH at info@acdhh.az.gov with the subject line: RTS Account.



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BILLS TO WATCH

Bill count: 531 Days of Session: 5

SB 1092: Deaf; Hard of Hearing; DeafBlind

This is the same the bill ACDHH worked on last year, but due to session ending early because of COVID-19, we are working with Senator Pace (LD 25) on introducing the bill again.

This bill adds DeafBlind to ACDHH's statutory duties related to DeafBlind programs, services, issues, and assistance to government entities and institutions on meeting the needs of the DeafBlind community.

In addition, SB 1092 directs ACDHH to make recommendations to the legislature on assessment standards that will optimize language acquisition for deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants, and children.

The bill as yet to be assigned to committee, but we anticipate it to go through Senate Health and Human Services when it is assigned.

ACDHH wants to thank you Senator Pace for sponsoring!

To request accessibility accommodations, such as captioning or ASL interpretation services for any committee or floor action, please call Senate Security Office at (602) 926-5319 for any Senate proceedings and for House proceedings call the Chief Clerk's Office at (602) 926-3032.

To find more information on a bill's status in the legislative process click on www.azleg.gov/BillStatus/BillOverview/SessionID=122 and enter the bill number into the search box.



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