



POLICY NEWS & UPDATES

[PLAIN TRANSCRIPT HERE](#)

55th Arizona Legislature January 14, 2022

And so it begins!

On Monday of this week, Governor Ducey gave his last State of the State Address. In his speech, he highlighted the successes of his two terms in office. He also spoke about his priorities for this year: Veterans, Public Safety, Family Support, Border Protection, Education, Assault Kits (Sexual Assault), Water, and Infrastructure. All of these priorities are important to everyone down at the State Legislature. However, each political party differs on how we achieve results and what is considered successful. We will hear a lot of debating and possibly screaming down at the State Capital again this year as each fight for their priorities.

How will the Governor pay for his priorities? The General Fund revenues are growing rapidly in Arizona. Arizona revenues grew 18% over the last 18 months. Allowing for \$1.0 Billion (that's right, with a B) for ongoing state initiatives PLUS \$2.1 Billion for one time initiatives. Read the Executive Budget [here](#):

While the Governor is required to produce a budget proposal by the first Friday of the legislative session, the State Legislature is not required to create a budget within the same timeframe. We anticipate the state budget will not pass through Legislature until the near end of session. Similar to last year, where it came down within hours of the fiscal deadline (June 30).

Committees were not held this week. Instead of holding standing Committees, the Senate and House of Representatives held Sunset Review Hearings for state agencies. Committee hearings are expected to resume to normal next week.

ACDHH will not have any bills moving through the Legislative Session this year. However, we will be at the Capital everyday educating members on Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind issues and communication access. Starting next week, we will start posting the bills that are being dropped and what they mean for you!

FEDERAL UPDATES

LAST WEEK TO MAKE COMMENTS **OVER THE COUNTER HEARING AIDS**

In October, the Federal Drug and Food Administration (FDA) issued [notice](#) of their proposed rules establishing a new category of OTC hearing aids.

Additionally, the proposed rules, amends existing rules that apply to hearing aids and state regulation of hearing aids. The public is allowed and encouraged to submit comments on the proposed rules.

Here are the proposed rules:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-22473>

If you would like to take action and file your comments on the proposed rules, you can!

To submit comments either electronically or written/paper statements, follow the instructions on the proposed rules link above.

[The deadline to submit public comments is January 18, 2022.](#)

Background: In 2017, Congress passed the bi-partisan Over-The-Counter Hearing Aid Act and was signed into law as part of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017. The law requires the FDA to create a new category of hearing aids that individuals can purchase over-the-counter (OTC) and issue regulations OTC manufacturers must follow.

[ACDHH Position on OTC Hearing Aids](#)

JOIN US THIS FRIDAY!



cup^o Capital

ACDHH Legislative Update

**BIWEEKLY ON
FRIDAY MORNINGS
@AZCDHH YOUTUBE**

ASL Interpreters and CART provided



Join ACDHH Community Engagement Liaison Beca Bailey and Director of Public Policy & Community Relations, Betty McEntire as we chat about the "happenings down at the Capital"

Starts Friday, January 21, 2022 and will be every other Friday thereafter.

ASL Interpreters and CART provided.

Want to contact your Congressional Representative or US Senator? Not sure who they are or what District you live in? Click on [US House of Representatives](#) or [US Senators](#) to

contact them today!

Want to contact your Arizona State House of Representatives or Arizona State Senator? Not sure who they are or what District you live in? Click on [Find My Legislator](#) to contact them today!



Register to Vote

