



Arizona Commission
for the deaf and the hard of hearing

POLICY NEWS & UPDATES

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55th Arizona Legislature February 4, 2022

This week at the State Legislature has been ummm, well? The truth...it was chaotic, it was messy, it was rough. With over 1,500 bills dropped, trying to

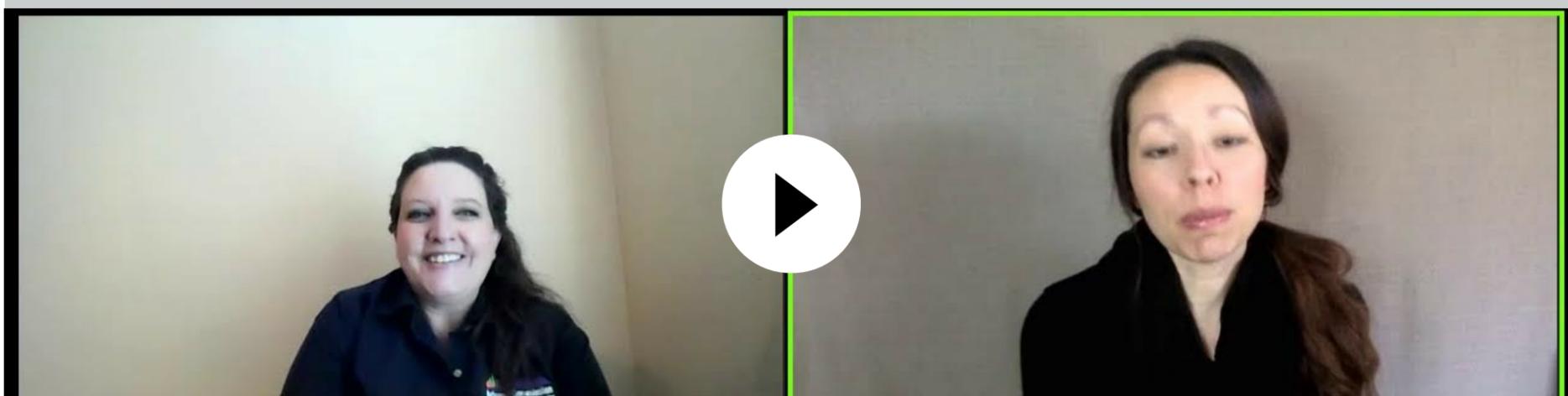
make sense of it all as been a bit overwhelming at times. As we mentioned previously, there are several educations, voting/election, and COVID-19 bills. A lot of these bills are fairly controversial.

Testimony was intense this week during several committees and floor debate. With members being disrespectful to one another, by talking over each other or making sarcastic comments, or just directly attacking each other's ideologies, it was hard to watch.

Even though it was rough to standby and watch, there was one "exciting" activity to happen. And by exciting we mean, shocked and surprised. House Speaker Rusty Bowers (LD-25) assigned HB 2596 to ALL 12 House Committees. By doing so, Speaker Bowers torpedoed this bill from ever moving. So why did the Speaker do this? To send a message to members. Or at least that is what we believe. No other Speaker (or President) has ever assigned a bill to every single committee before. The most was 5.

Unfortunately, more chaos is on the horizon. And probably more craziness!

ICYMI



[Video Transcript Here](#)

BILLS WE ARE WATCHING

[HB 2031](#) higher education, individuals with a disability
Sponsored by Rep. Udall (LD-25)

"Community colleges" (defined elsewhere in statute) and universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents are required to adopt policies that are transparent and explicit about the process by which the university or community college determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability, and that make any of a list of specified documents sufficient to establish that an individual is an

individual with a disability.

Passed Committee of the Whole 55-1-0. Transmitted to Senate

[HB 2436](#) ADA state coordinator

Sponsored by Rep. Longdon (LD-24)

The Governor's Office of Equal Opportunity is required to hire a full-time statewide Americans with disabilities coordinator to implement an annual plan to carry out the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Arizona. Appropriates \$100,000 and 1 FTE position from the general fund in FY2022-23 to the Office for the coordinator.

Bill was assigned to HHS and Appropriations. Bill has been Withdrawn from Health and Human Services committee.

[HB2565](#) ASDB; revisions

Sponsored by Rep. Udall (LD-25)

Various changes to statutes relating to the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). The ASDB is required to hold a placement meeting for a child enrolled in a campus-based model at least annually, and is required to invite a representative of the child's home school district. If a determination is made that the ASDB is no longer the least restrictive environment, the home school district shall enroll the child. Expands the membership of the placement and evaluation team.

Bill has been assigned to House Education committee. Scheduled for 2/8/2022 agenda.

[HB 2566](#) special education vouchers; amount

Sponsored by Rep. Udall (LD-25)

Establishes amounts for special education institutional vouchers for students enrolled in a campus-based program at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

Bill has been assigned to House Education committee. Scheduled for 2/8/2022 agenda.

[HB 2454](#) statutory conformity; property tax exemptions

Sponsored by Rep. Carter (LD-8)

Exempts the property of veterans with service or nonservice connected disabilities who are Arizona residents from taxation, with an allowed exemption amount of \$4,200 multiplied by the percentage of the veteran's disability, as rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, if the person's total assessment does not exceed \$30,000. The exemption limit for property of widows, widowers and persons with total and permanent disabilities is increased to \$4,200, from \$3,000, if the person's total assessment does not exceed \$30,000, increased from \$20,000. Also makes various changes to property tax statutes in order to conform to proposed changes to property tax exemptions contained in the state Constitution. Conditionally enacted on the state Constitution being amended by a vote of the people at the next general election to consolidate and reorganize provisions relating to exemptions from property taxation.

Bill was assigned to Ways and Means committee. Scheduled for 2/9/2022 agenda.

[SB 1058](#) drive up voting prohibited
Sponsored by Sen. Rogers (LD-6)

The county recorder or officer in charge of elections is prohibited from allowing a voter to receive a ballot and vote from a vehicle or other conveyance, and from using a ballot drop box except inside a polling place or voting center or the county recorder's or election department's offices. Appropriately trained election workers are required to monitor ballot drop boxes.

Bill was assigned to Senate Government committee. Scheduled to be on 2/7/22 agenda.

[SB 1199](#) Alzheimer's; dementia; advisory council
Sponsored by Sen. Gray (LD-21)

Establishes the 17-member Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council to examine the needs of individuals who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, the services available in Arizona for those individuals, and the ability of health care providers and facilities to meet the current and future needs of those individuals. By 18 months after the effective date of this legislation, the Council is required to submit a new State Alzheimer's Plan to the Governor and the Legislature. The Council is required to submit a report on the

status of implementing the Plan and any recommendations for implementation to the Governor and the Legislature by February 1 of each year.

Bill was assigned to Senate Health and Human Services committee. Next steps: bill assigned to committee agenda. ACDHH has requested a committee amendment to be added as part of the advisory council.

[SB 1211](#) S/E schools; materials; activities; posting; review
Sponsored by Sen. Barto (LD-15)

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, each school district and charter school governing board is required to ensure that each school under its authority prominently displays on a publicly accessible portion of its website a list of specified information, including the procedures for a parent to access the current learning materials used for student instruction, the procedures for the school principal to approve lesson plans, a listing of the learning materials and activities used for instruction at the school, a listing of available resources in the school library, and a copy of each survey administered at the school that solicits personal information about a student. This information must be displayed online at least seven days before the start of each school year. Establishes a complaint process that a party must follow prior to initiating legal action to enforce this requirement.

Bill assigned to Senate Education. Do Pass (DP) 5-3-0. Waiting for a Rules agenda.

WORDS. SO MANY WORDS.

The Fifteenth Amendment

The Fifteenth Amendment (1870) declares that the right to vote cannot be denied to any citizen of the United States because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

In this week's segment of Words. So Many Words, is a request for the term an Amendment.

An Amendment: an addition or change to a legislative bill. An amendment can be added onto a bill during a committee or during COW (committee of the whole) or conference committee.

Like when the US Constitution was ratified to add the 15th Amendment outlining African-American men had the right to vote. (Unfortunately, the Grandfather clause was invoked, preventing many African-American men from actually voting)

**Do you want to know the meaning behind a policy word or legislative process? Send us an email at info@acdhh.az.gov with the subject line: I want to know.
We will answer in an upcoming policy update.**

Catch Us Next Time!



cup^o Capital

ACDHH Legislative Update

BIWEEKLY ON
FRIDAY MORNINGS
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Have a question about a bill? Want to know how to contact your Legislator?

Grab your coffee and join us as we chat about the "happenings down at the Capital" on ACDHH YouTube Channel.

Next Airing February 18th at 9:00am

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