



**Arizona Commission**  
for the deaf and the hard of hearing

# **POLICY NEWS & UPDATES**

[PLAIN TRANSCRIPT HERE](#)

## **55th Arizona Legislature February 11, 2022**

The pressure is on and the Legislature is starting to feel the heat. Next week is the last week bills have to be heard in their original chamber before the bill

dies. That meant this week Legislators amped up their agendas and adding days to committee calendars. For example, Senate Government was held twice this week. Senate Health and Human Services met ALL day on Wednesday. With deadlines looming, we are curious what will survive and which bills will meet their fate.

Of course, as you dedicated readers know...*nothing ever really dies until Sine Die.*

But before we dwell on the anticipation of long agendas, days, and nights coming next week, let's recap what happened this week!

Starting off in Senate Government, was a myriad of voting and election bills. One of which caught our attention: SB 1404. Sponsored by Senator Gowan, this bill defines WHO is eligible to be on the early ballot list as well REMOVES onsite early voting locations, as well as about ten other things. This one caught our attention as it would NOT allow a person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing to be an early voter UNLESS they were:

65 years of age OR is physically unable to go to the polls OR is visually impaired OR lives 15 miles away from the precinct polling location OR because of religious reasons.

HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

Folks, be on the lookout for a future Call to Action. If this bill moves any further, we will send out a special call to action, asking you to email your State Senator to vote NO on SB 1404.

Over in the House of Representatives similar bills were being heard. In House Government and Elections, HB 2602 was passed along party lines. This bill would only allow emergency voting in cases of a State of Emergency like war. Not whether or not voters had a personal emergency. Oh! And this bill would also remove counties ability to use vote centers. If these two bills passed, or any of the other election related bills, Arizona would be going back to precinct based voting ONLY.

Get the DeLorean ready! Because we are heading Back to the Future!

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## BILLS WE ARE WATCHING

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[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.

**Passed out of House Education 10-0-0. Next step is Rules 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.

**Passed out of House Education 10-0-0. Next step is House Appropriations.**

[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.

**Passed out of House Ways and Means 9-0-0-1. Next step is House Rules.**

[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.

**Passed out of Senate Government 5-4-0. Next step is Senate Rules.**

[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.**

[SB 1368](#) Early Ballots; Visually Impaired Voters  
Sponsored by Sen. Pace (LD-25)

Early voting is required to include voting by the use of a remote accessible vote by mail system for persons with a visual impairment.

**Bill assigned to Senate Government. Scheduled to be on agenda 2/14/2022.**

[SB 1404](#) Eligibility; Early Voting; List  
Sponsored by Sen. Gowan (LD-14)

Repeals the active early voting list. Qualified electors are only allowed to vote by early ballot if the elector expects to be absent from the precinct at the time of the election, the elector is physically unable to go to the polls, the elector is 65 years of age or older, the elector's residence is more than 15 miles from the polling place, the elector is unable to attend the polls on election day because of the tenets of his/her religion, the elector has a visual impairment, or the elector is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter or the spouse or household member of the absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter. County recorders are no longer authorized to establish on-site early voting locations.

**Bill passed out of Senate Government 4-3-0. Scheduled for Senate Rules calendar 2/14/22.**

[HB 2602](#) Polling Places; Emergency Vote Centers  
Sponsored by Rep. Bolick (LD-20)

County boards of supervisors are allowed to authorize the use of emergency voting centers only on occurrence of a genuine emergency that makes it likely that large numbers of voters will be substantially impaired in their ability to vote on election day as compared to other elections.

**Bill passed out of House Government and Elections 7-6-0. Scheduled for House Rules calendar 2/14/22.**

[HB 2659](#) Organ Transplants; disabilities; discrimination; prohibition  
Sponsored by Rep. Kaiser (LD-15)

Health care providers are prohibited from determining that an individual is ineligible to receive an organ transplant, refusing to place the individual on an organ transplant waiting list, or denying an individual medical or other services related to an organ transplant based solely on the individual's disability. Applies to each stage of the organ transplant process. If an individual believes that a health care provider or facility has violated this prohibition, the affected individual may commence a civil action for injunctive and other equitable relief for the purpose of enforcing compliance.

**Bill assigned to House Health and Human Services committee. Scheduled for HHHS committee agenda on 2/14/22.**

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# WORDS. SO MANY WORDS.

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In this week's segment of Words. So Many Words, is a request on why this year is still the 55th Legislative Session if last year was also the 55th Legislative Session. "How come it is not the 56th Legislative Session?"

The answer is because legislative members are elected every two years and meet annually. Last year was the 55th **First** Regular Session. This year it is the 55th **Second** Regular Session.

2022 is a mid-term election year. All of the State House of Representatives and State Senator races are up for election again this November. So next year will be the 56th First Regular Session.

**Do you want to know the meaning behind a policy word or legislative process? Send us an email at [info@acdhh.az.gov](mailto:info@acdhh.az.gov) with the subject line: I want to know.**

**We will answer in an upcoming policy update.**

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## Catch Us Next Time!

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# cup<sup>o</sup> Capital

ACDHH Legislative Update

BIWEEKLY ON  
FRIDAY MORNINGS  
@AZCDHH YOUTUBE

ASL Interpreters and CART provided



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**

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!**

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