



Arizona Commission
for the deaf and the hard of hearing

POLICY NEWS & UPDATES

[PLAIN TRANSCRIPT HERE](#)

55th Arizona Legislature February 18, 2022

What a doozy this week was at the Legislature! It was a long week with long agendas, as lawmakers scrambled to get their bills heard before today's

deadline. Today was the “official” last day for bills to be heard in committee. The only exception is for appropriation committees, which meets for final agendas early next week.

So, what did we see happen this week? We saw several bills we were tracking end up on the chopping block. The ADA coordinator bill, the ASDB voucher bill, the Alzheimer/dementia advisory committee bill to name a few of the bills that failed to get on a final committee agenda.

But like Daniel Russo in Karate Kid, never count the kid out! Any of these bills can find their way back into the legislative process.

We did see and hear in the Senate Government committee a discussion on SB1638. This bill would allow individuals who are Blind or Visually impaired to receive their Braille and/or large print ballot (we believe) as a mail-in ballot. The bill passed, but the discussion from the members was interesting! Some members thought that if county elections officials offered these types of mail-in ballots, that election fraud would occur. A few even thought that bad people would learn Braille to cheat the system. Have they tried reading Braille? It's not so easy!

But we digress. Let's talk what's next!

All bills that made it through committee this week will have to make it through its chamber floor calendars next week. Begs us to ask...which of the final 1,678 bills will make it to the checkered flag?

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 failed to have a committee hearing. Watch to see if it makes it to the budget.

[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 Rules. Scheduled for the COW agenda on 2/21/2022. An amendment should be forthcoming.

[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.

Failed to make it on an Appropriations committee agenda. Another one to watch to see if it appears again in the process.

[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 3rd read in the House on a 52-5-2 vote. Transmitted to Senate.

[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.

Awaiting a Senate Rule calendar.

[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.

Failed to be heard in committee.

[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.

Scheduled for COW calendar 2/15/2022. Was retained on the Senate floor.

[SB 1638](#) 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 passed out of Senate Government 5-2-0. Next step is Senate Rules.

[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.

Passed out of Senate Rules. Next step is a COW calendar.

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.

Passed out of House Rules. Next step a COW calendar.

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 passed out of House Health and Human Services committee. Next step is Rules. Scheduled for 2/21/22 agenda.

WORDS. SO MANY WORDS.



We have two! Two I Want to Know submissions this week! You like us. You really like our alerts and updates!

First- Why was ACDHH looking for an amendment on the Alzheimer's/dementia

bill?

ACDHH was asking for an amendment to this bill for two reasons: 1) because deafness is directly correlated with an increase of Alzheimer's/dementia disease and 2) number one issue indicated by D/HH/DB community members who are 55 or older.

Second- What is going on with the SB 1092 Task Force?

The task force has just formed and had its first meeting with members of the task force. The virtual meetings are open to the public to attend. We will also have an opportunity for members of the public to participate in subcommittee hearings. Check out our Get Involved page on the ACDHH website www.acdhh.org in the coming weeks to find out more!

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.



cup^o 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 March 4 at 9:00am

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