



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

# **POLICY NEWS & UPDATES**

[PLAIN TRANSCRIPT HERE](#)

## **55th Arizona Legislature February 25, 2022**

We apologize for the delay in sending out this week's Legislative Updates and Alerts. We received word late yesterday afternoon the Governor is looking to

call a Special Session this coming week. Rumors say the purpose of the Special Session will be to repeal and replace the progressive flat tax cut that was passed in last year's legislative session.

The reason behind calling for the repeal and replace tax plan? It is because of the pending voter initiative that will go to the ballot this November permanently repealing the tax cut. Enough signatures were gathered and approved by the Secretary of State's office this week, allowing the initiative to move to the voters.

Let's recap why this is all happening. Last year, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, a progressive flat tax cut. This flat tax would have allowed the top 2% of Arizonans to receive a \$2 billion tax cut. This would be accomplished by lowering the income tax rate for the majority of taxpayers to 2.5%. For the majority of Arizonans, according to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), would equal to a savings of \$231 a year.

Don't worry. ACDHH has your back! We will be watching to see if the rumor comes true and will report out if it does. And of course, what comes of it.

***Now back to regularly scheduled business!*** Crossover Week! So exciting right! For policy nerds, crossover week is what we all look forward to.

Someone wise once posed the question, "What does 'halfway there' mean?" Does it mean we are in the middle or near the end? Since this is the legislative session, that means we are in the middle. And crossover week indicates as much! And that is why we look forward to it. There is a *potential* light at the end of the tunnel. Crossover week allows us to take a deep breath and see where we landed with all of the 1,600 bills we started from.

This past week the legislature finished off its standing committees with long Appropriation committee agendas. The Senate Appropriations heard almost 30 bills this past Monday. The rest of the week was left for nothing but COW and 3rd Read calendars in both chambers. Fortunately, we had enough Diet Mountain Dew to get us through the long days of calendars.

The House alone had 10, yup, 10 COW calendars on both Wednesday and Thursday this week. Whereas, the Senate came in with 7 and 5 calendars respectively. But on the flip side the House only had a few 3rd Read calendars and the Senate had 10. We can expect more COW and 3rd Read calendars this coming week. Both chambers are striving to finish up crossover week business as the committee deadline clock starts again this coming week.

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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.

**Transmitted to Senate. Assigned to Senate Education.**

[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.

**DPA COW 2/21/22. Passed 3rd Read 54-4-2. Transmitted to Senate. Assigned to Senate Education.**

[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.

**Transmitted to Senate. Assigned to Senate Finance.**

[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 is Dead. Will continue to monitor for Zombie status.**

[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 is Dead. Will continue to monitor for Zombie status.**

[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.

**Retained on Senate COW Calendar.**

[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 is Dead. Will continue to monitor for Zombie status.**

[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.

**Awaiting 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.

**Amended**

Bill as amended removes the original bill language removing the use of emergency vote centers and vote centers in general. **DPA COW 2/22/22; Passed 3rd Read 31-28-1. Transmitted to Senate. Assigned to Senate GOV.**

[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.

**Passed 3rd Read 31-28-1. Transmitted to Senate. Assigned to Senate HHS.**

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**WORDS. SO MANY WORDS.**

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This week edition is brought to you by the letter R. For Rumors. With the rumors swirling about special session, what a perfect opportunity to explain how a special session can be called.

There are two ways a special session can be called. 1) Either the Governor calls for one or 2) Two-thirds majority of the Legislature votes to hold one.

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](http://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](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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## ICYMI

In case you missed last week's Cup-O-Capital episode on AzCDHH LIVE YouTube!



[Click Here for Video Transcript](#)

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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 March 4 at 9:00am**

ASL Interpreters and CART provided.



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