



# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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## Legislative Overview

Today marks the 12th day of the legislative session. To date, 1,005 bills have been introduced, which is a 34% increase in bill introductions over last year at this point (749) and 61 memorials have been introduced, a 38% increase from last year at this point of the session (44). It is common to see more bills during an election year, but this year's introductions are the largest in recent memory. There are rumors of several outstanding bills being drafted by Legislative Council staff, which means we are likely to see more legislation in the coming weeks. League staff is working very hard to identify any bills that will impact local decision-making and shared-revenue distributions.

Lawmakers in the Senate have until Monday, February 3 to introduce legislation, while the House deadline is Monday, February 10.

## Transportation

During this week's House Transportation Committee, mayors and representatives from the cities of Sierra Vista, Willcox, and Globe spoke to the committee about the transportation needs in each of their communities.

Mayor Rick Mueller of Sierra Vista emphasized that while the city is slowly coming out of the recession, revenues and growth have been declining for the past eight years. Although Sierra Vista dedicates 1.95% of its local TPT rate to road maintenance, increasing materials and personnel costs make it challenging to improve road conditions.

Willcox Mayor Michael Laws thanked the committee for previous investments made by the Legislature that directly benefitted the city by promoting their booming wine industry and increasing access to Northern Cochise hospitals. On the topic of transportation, the mayor shared that the city dedicates 33% of its tax base to road maintenance and repairs. Despite this, to repair the city's infrastructure would require them to triple their current investment.

Paul Jepson, city manager for Globe, stated, "we repair what we can, with the money we have", adding that the city budgets \$1.2M a year for road maintenance. Nevertheless, approximately one-third of Globe's roads are seriously damaged. Jepson also highlighted the challenges facing rural communities in Arizona, such as the difficulty in securing contracts for construction projects and often the lack of bidders for these projects.

Throughout the next few weeks the committee's chairman, Rep. Noel Campbell (R-Prescott), will host additional city and town mayors as well as county supervisors from across the state to speak to the committee about the challenges they face in addressing deferred maintenance and ongoing transportation needs.

## League Resolutions - Executive Session

HB 2053 executive sessions; security plans., sponsored by Rep. Espinoza (D-Tolleson), passed the House Technology committee this week with unanimous approval. This measure allows public bodies, including city and town councils, to discuss issues related to building security and IT security in executive session. The bill is a product of the League's resolution process and has received support from the County Supervisors Association and the Arizona School Boards Association.

The bill was double-assigned and is scheduled for an additional hearing in the House Government Committee next week. A mirror measure, sponsored by Senator Borrelli (R-Lake Havasu City), is also pending a hearing in the Senate Government Committee.

## Legislative Bill Monitoring

All bills being actively monitored by the League can be found [here](#).