



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Legislative Overview

Today is the 110th day of session and we are still waiting for the legislature to introduce and take action on the FY '18 budget. In the meantime, League staff has been tracking the last remaining bills of the session, including some League resolutions.

To date, 283 bills have passed the legislature. The governor has signed 211 into law, vetoed four and the remaining bills are pending action by the governor.

State Budget

While negotiations continue, they have yet to culminate in a budget compromise. The universities' bonding proposal remains the lynchpin to reaching a final agreement and moving toward sine die.

It has been widely reported by various media outlets that any proposal regarding more funding for universities will not include any city, town or county revenues. But, even with that issue seemingly resolved, there is still much debate over how much additional funding the universities should receive and what mechanism should be used to provide that funding.

Other budget matters remain but cannot be agreed on until the legislature settles the university funding issue. There have been rumors of the budget bills being released next week. Even though we believe there is little or no direct impact on city revenue, we cannot be completely sure we will not be affected until we see the bills. We will start our analysis as soon as we receive them and will send out a communication about the contents of the budget as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please keep communicating with your legislative delegation about the budget and let us know what you are hearing.

Full and Final

SB 1332 NOW: workers' compensation; settlement; travel expenses, sponsored by Sen. Karen Fann, R-Prescott, LD 1, was unanimously approved on Final Read in the Senate yesterday, but still needs a final vote in the House before going to the governor for his signature. The House will likely take up the measure early next week and as of now there appears to be no organized opposition.

The bill makes much needed and overdue reforms to the Workers' Compensation Act to allow for mutually beneficial "full and final" settlements of Workers' Compensation claims. The changes are part of a Workers' Comp consensus package that was negotiated and agreed to by employers and insurers as well as representatives for injured workers. These negotiations focused on providing statutory protections for employees that choose to settle their claims.

Employees benefit from these settlements by allowing them full control and access to their medical benefits without having to go through any intermediaries. Employers, including public employers like cities and towns, benefit from final settlements because they reduce administrative costs and eliminate the need to keep reserves associated with those claims. This in turn helps control Workers' Comp costs for both privately-insured and self-insured employers such as those with the municipal risk pool. A majority of other states allow for full and final settlements and SB 1332 would bring Arizona in line with other states that allow their employees and employers to benefit from this voluntary settlement option.

Please thank your Senators for their support of Workers' Comp reforms that will help protect the system and benefit employees and employers, and let your Representatives know that we would appreciate their support as well.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

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