



Issue 11 – March 22, 2019

Legislative Overview

Today is the 68th day of session. Next week is the last to hear bills in the opposing chamber, except for the Appropriations committees that will have an additional week to hear measures. The last few of weeks of committees we typically see a high-volume of strike-everything amendments to keep issues moving through the process that have stalled, failed a key vote or that may be an entirely new subject that hasn't been vetted yet by either chamber. The House Rules Committee held from consideration several House bills and some Senate bills, and lawmakers in both chambers have openly expressed frustration with this and are seeking strike-everything amendments in the Senate chamber to bypass House Rules.

To date, 37 bills have passed the legislature and were submitted to the governor. Eight of these measures have been signed and one has been vetoed.

Public Right to Action

On Thursday the Senate Judiciary Committee held from consideration HB2026 public resources; influencing elections; penalties sponsored by Representative John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills). The bill would have allowed the public to sue any city, town, county or school district for an alleged violation of statutes prohibiting the use of public resources to influence elections, bypassing an already established process through the county attorney or attorney general that handles these claims. The League drafted an amendment that would have maintained the requirement for the public to first file the claim with the attorney general or their county attorney, and only allow the public to file an action in the courts if these public officials took no action on the claim.

Landlord-Tenant Preemption

On Monday, the Senate Government committee heard HB 2115 landlord tenant; state preemption, sponsored by Rep. Gail Griffin (R-Hereford). The bill preempts local governments from enacting any regulations related to landlord-tenant issues, except those adopted before December 31, 2018.

Over many years, several cities have worked with their residents to create and adopt codes that establish specific standards for rental housing, including the adequacy of heating, cooling, water pressure and temperature, and other things such as the provision of lighting on exterior walkways and peep holes for front doors. Arizona cities and towns have used this authority responsibly for decades to protect their community, their tenants, and their landlords. While state statute provides some basic protections for tenants related to evictions and some general requirements for landlords, no state agency enforces these regulations and tenants and landlords must rely on the courts for relief. Cities and towns often serve as the first place where residents look to for help in resolving problems with housing.

As illustrated by short-term rentals, when the state preempts cities on local issues that have been handled responsibly in the past, new problems tend to pop up and existing problems tend to be exacerbated. While the League has been working to pass a bill this year that will provide some relief to the problems caused by short-term rentals, we have simultaneously been alerting legislators that HB 2115 could lead to other problems at the local level that would need to be continually addressed at the legislature.

The League will continue to oppose the bill, to work with other groups affected by this issue, and to bring more awareness to the issue both in and outside of the Capitol. In that vein, we have created and shared a short video which highlights the problem. Click this [link](#) to watch and share.

Primary Election Date

On Tuesday, the House Elections committee heard SB 1154 primary date; first August Tuesday, sponsored by Senator David Gowan (R-Sierra Vista). The bill would move the primary election date to the first, rather than the last, Tuesday in August. It also moves the start date for the candidate petition filing period to five months before the election and conforms all other dates associated with the primary election. As we do every year, League staff has been tracking and reviewing all election-related legislation and having discussions with the county associations about their impact. After reviewing this bill,

several technical issues were identified and shared with the sponsor. During committee, the sponsor agreed to make changes to the bill so that it could be implemented properly. We have shared our proposed language to address the issues raised with legislative staff and expect the bill to be amended accordingly on the floor of the Senate in the coming days.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

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