



Issue 11 – March 26, 2021

Legislative Update

Today is the 75th day of the legislative session. This week was the last week to consider bills in committee, a key milestone of session. House and Senate committees considered a total of 196 bills this week alone, making a final push to ensure measures make it past the committee stage. As is always the case, the Appropriations committees in each chamber meets for one additional week.

The Senate Appropriations committee is scheduled to hear 33 measures on Wednesday, 19 of which are strike-everything amendments. The House Appropriations committee will consider 25 bills on Tuesday, of which 3 are strike everything amendments.

Tobacco and Vape

On Tuesday, the Senate Appropriations Committee heard HB2682 with a strike-everything amendment (e-liquids; tobacco products; vapor products), sponsored by Rep. Justin Wilmeth (R-Phoenix). It passed on a party line vote (5-4) with some committee members reluctantly voting yes.

The striker is similar to a bill the tobacco industry introduced earlier this year to preempt cities, towns and counties from regulating sales and marketing of tobacco and vape products and prevent certain zoning restrictions from applying to tobacco retail and convenience stores, such as requirements that tobacco sales occur more than a quarter mile from schools, playgrounds, daycares and other places where children congregate. HB2682 would disturb these long-standing requirements, allowing convenience stores to sell tobacco and vapor products 300 ft away from a school, less than a football field length. It would also allow outdoor advertising at these locations, such as billboards, without any local regulation.

The League testified in opposition in committee. It will now proceed to the Rules committee and potentially to the floor, where it is unlikely the bill will have the votes to pass the Senate.

Public Posting Requirements

One of the League's resolutions, [HB2400 municipal ordinance; posting](#) is headed to the Governor's desk. The measure modernizes public posting requirements for ordinances that have a penalty associated with them. The bill would require municipalities to post these ordinances in one public location rather than three, in addition to a city or town's website. The measure does not make changes to requirements to post in a newspaper of local circulation. The League is thankful to Representative Joanne Osborne (R-Buckeye) for sponsoring the bill, which passed out of the Senate 29-0 on Thursday. The bill will now be transmitted back to the House, who will send the legislation to the Governor for consideration.

Building Permits

[HB2716 licensing; building permits; temporary permits](#) sponsored by Representative Gail Griffin (R-Hereford) failed to pass the Senate Commerce committee on Wednesday. The League opposed the measure in committee due to significant concerns the bill raised for cities and towns. The bill would have required municipalities to approve single-family residential building permits within seven days of receiving an application – if the municipality did not issue the permit in the specified timeframe, the applicant could begin construction. While HB2716 failed in committee, League staff will be vigilant as the provisions in the bill could show up in the form of an amendment on another measure.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

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