



Issue 22 – June 18, 2021

Legislative Update

Today is the 159th day of the session. The Legislature focused its attention this week on providing relief for the communities affected by ongoing wildfires. Last week Governor Ducey issued a call for a special session on wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery, and the Legislature convened on Tuesday. By Thursday afternoon, the single bill introduced, which appropriates \$100 million and 122 additional staff positions for fire emergency and mitigation responses, passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support. Now that the special session has adjourned sine die, the Legislature's focus shifts back to the budget and potential conclusion of the regular session.

State Budget

With only 13 days remaining in the fiscal year, pressure is mounting for lawmakers to agree on a state budget and prevent a government shutdown. Though there was speculation that there had been progressing towards an agreement, with the potential for a vote this week, legislative leadership ultimately decided to adjourn and reconvene Monday afternoon. Representative David Cook (R-Globe) and Senator Paul Boyer (R-Glendale) have publicly opposed the initial tax plan and continue to negotiate with leadership to secure concessions that will, among other priorities, protect city and town shared revenues and provide more funds to reduce state debt obligations.

Wildfire Special Session

On Wednesday, the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee held a joint committee session to consider HB2001 and SB1001. The bills are mirror measures to provide nearly \$100 million for wildfire initiatives. The measures allocated \$75 million to the Department of Fire and Forestry Management Provides for fire suppression-related expenses, including post-fire hazard mitigation. This funding is available to reimburse local governments for costs related to fire emergency response, sheltering, wraparound services, public infrastructure damage, and other support activities. [HB2001](#)

[appropriations; fire suppression](#), sponsored by Representative Gail Griffin R-Hereford, was signed into law today by Governor Ducey, which will make these funds available immediately for statewide fire suppression and hazard mitigation activities.

Legislative Bill Monitoring

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