

Arizona Legislative Session Overview & Outlook

January 22, 2025

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Senate: 17 Republicans/13 Democrats

*previous session, the senate is 16 Republicans/14 Democrats

House: 33 Republicans/27 Democrats

*previous session, the House is 31 Republicans/29 Democrats

What to expect for the session:

- 1600 to 1800 bills to be published
- ~300 will make it fully through the legislative process
 - High volume of vetoes (73 last session)

Highly Anticipated “Big” Legislative Items

- Extension of Prop123 for education (expires June 30, 2025)
- Water Issues
 - Ag-to-Urban
 - Rural Groundwater
- Housing: Accessibility & Affordability
- Election “Late Earlies” Issue
- Child Care Funding
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Behavioral Health Issues

Key Legislative Session Deadlines

- February 21st: Last day for consideration of bills in committees in the chamber of origin
- Feb 24th - 28th: “Crossover Week”
- March 28th: Last day for consideration of bills in committees in the opposite chamber
- April 26th: Goal for adjournment sine die

Governor Hobbs State of the State Address

- The “Arizona Promise”
- Main Topics: Education, ESA voucher reform, water, affordable housing
- Education Focus: Prop123 extension, ESA Income Cap & Accountability, AEL



Education Bills

SB1002: Pronouns biological sex; school policies Prohibitions against usage of a student's pronoun or name that differs from their biological sex or the name listed on their student records. Note, this is a repeat bill from last session. (Sen. Kavanagh - R)

SB1003: Public schools; restrooms; reasonable accommodations Requires a public school to provide reasonable accommodation to any person who is unwilling or unable to use a multi-occupancy “restroom” or “changing facility”. (Sen. Kavanagh - R)

SB1007: Public school tax credits Authorizes the use of public school tax credits for capital items, school meals, student consumable health care supplies, playground equipment or shade structures. (Sen. Kavanagh - R)

SB1011: Early voting; ballot deadlines; certificates Various early voting statute changes. Requires schools to be polling places. PASSED COMMITTEE 4-3 (Sen. Petersen - R)

Education Bills

SB1028: High school graduation; requirements Establishes high school graduation requirements to include passage of a statewide assessment or CTE assessment or obtain industry recognized credential. (Sen. Kavanagh - R)

SB1041: School board candidates; electronic signatures Authorizes electronic signing of nomination petitions for school board members. (Sen. Kavanagh - R)

SB1106: Public entity liabilities; sexual offenses Enables civil liability to public entities for failure to not fulfil statutory requirement for background checks or duty to report. (Sen. Miranda-D)

SB1133: History of communism; instructions requirement Requires specified teaching on communism and communistic regimes as part of the state academic standards. (Sen. Rogers -R)

SB1136: Schools; noncertificated personnel; background investigations Adds “discipline history” to the required previous employment verifications for noncertified staff. (Sen. Miranda-D)

Education Bills

HB2019: Schools; water safety, information, resources Requires schools to include in enrollment packets water safety education courses. (Rep. Gress- R)

HB2020: Teacher retention; study; report Requires districts and charters to include number of FTE teachers, disaggregated by subject and grade level in annual budget report. Requires ADE to conduct annual teacher retention report. (Rep. Gress- R)

HB2022: School safety; employee certification; policies Establishes Save our Children School Safety Program at ADE for emergency response training. Eligible schools to authorize employee to possess firearm. **PASSED COMMITTEE 7-5** (Rep. Bliss – R)

Education Bills

HB2029: Internet safety Instruction; public schools Requires schools to provide internet safety instruction to grades 5-12. (Rep. Martinez – R)

HB2055, HB2058, HB2063: Various vaccine exemption bills. (Rep. Fink – R)

HB2062: Sex-based terms; laws; rules; regulations Establishes definitions for sex-based terms, applicable to all public entities, tying to sex discrimination. (Rep. Fink – R)

Education Bills

HB2067: School facilities oversight board; continuation Continues SFOB for 2 years.
PASSED COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (Rep. Gress – R)

HB2069: Instructional time models; posting requirements Removes permission for schools to provide up to 50% of its total instructional time in a remote setting without impact to the school's funding. Requires schools to submit instructional time models for ADE to post. (Rep. Taylor – R)

HB2074: School safety; proposals; assessments; plans Officer training for students with special need, authorization of school safety program funds to support campus technology, training and infrastructure, additional fields on school safety application, removal of school blueprints as public records, authorization of retired peace officers or off-duty officers as SRO's; ties school safety funds to emergency response plans meeting minimum standards, requires school safety assessment and every 3 years school district safety audit. **PASSED COMMITTEE 8-4 (Rep. Gress – R)**

Education Bills

HB2078: Menu of assessments; public schools Eliminates requirement of statewide assessment in grades 3-12 if school administrators as assessment from the menu of assessments adopted by SBE (Rep. Fink – R)

HB2164: Public schools; ultraprocessed foods Prohibits use of specified additives and dyes to school meals (Rep. Biasiucci - R)

HB2167: School districts; records; noncompliance; penalties Requires training and ADE intervention for failure to correct an audit deficiency. Authorizes 1% penalty of district budget monthly until correction is made. Prohibits schools from bonds/overrides until audit deficiency is corrected. (Rep. Gress – R)

HB2169: School Districts; board meetings; expenditures Requires school governing board and subcommittee meetings to be held at the school district, materials be made available online for at least 5 years, and the meeting be made available virtually (live and stored for 5 years) for districts over 5000 students. Requires majority vote for out of state governing board travel.

Education Bills

HB2170: Individualized education programs; dyslexia diagnosis Requires IEPs to indicate if child has been diagnosed with dyslexia (Rep. Gress-R)

HB2172: Parent training; schools k-8 students Requires ADE to develop training on child sex trafficking and internet crimes. Requires schools to distribute annually. (Rep. Willoughby-R)

HB2196: Schools; AEDs; CPR training; requirements Requires schools to have AED's. Includes funds for 50% or more FRPL schools. Other training elements required of schools. (Rep Willoughby-R)

HB2227: Bond; override; contributions; contracts; prohibition Prohibition of entities from contributing to bond/overrides that stand to benefit (Rep. Hendrix-R)

Education Bills Filed...

[HB2302: Accommodation schools; building renewal grants](#) Allows accommodation schools built before 2014 to access BRG funds (Rep. Biasiucci – R)

[HB2375: Children with disabilities; evaluation; deadline](#) If a parent requests an IEP evaluation between May 1 and Sept. 1, the school must begin the evaluation or provide notice of refusal to conduct the evaluation within 15 calendar days. (Rep. Carter – R)

[HB2484: School policies; internet; wireless devices](#) Requires schools to have policies on internet usage, wireless communication devices, and restrict social media platforms (Rep. Pingerelli – R)

[HB2609: Advanced mathematics courses; student enrollment](#) Requires schools to enroll 6th, 7th, 8th graders in advanced course if specified criteria met. Annual reporting by schools. (Rep. Gress – R)

[HCR2003: Expenditure limit; school districts; authorization](#) AEL override for FY26. Requires 2/3 vote. (Rep. Gress - R)

Prop 123 & AEL Updates

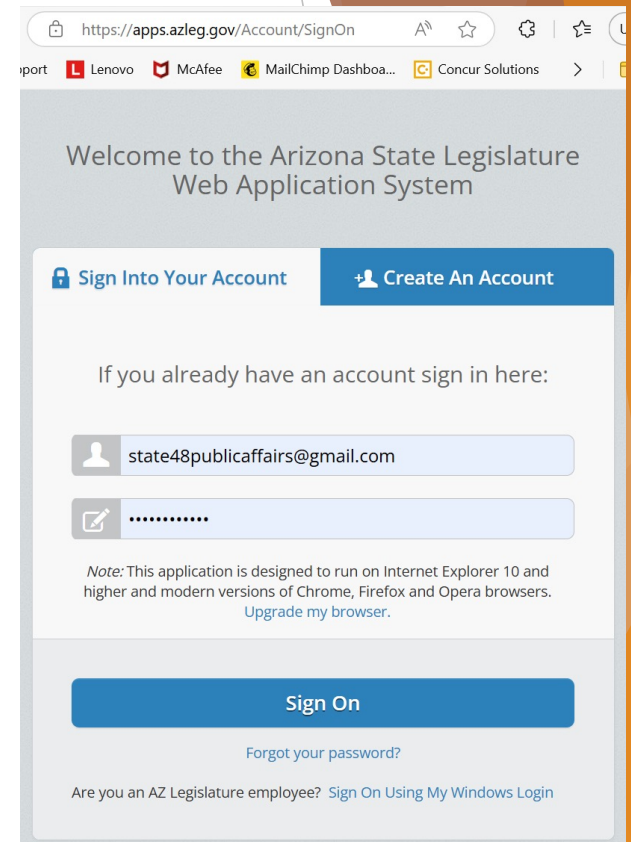
A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent orange and brown geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a layered, abstract effect. A thin white line also extends from the bottom left towards the center of this graphic.

Highlights: Healthcare Premiums Actuarial Study

- ▶ **School districts can currently join the state health plan if they desire, but at the current cost and coverage levels.**
- ▶ **IF all school districts joined the state plan it would reduce the cost of the overall plan, BUT, because the state plan provides richer benefits and a higher subsidy for dependents in the end it would increase school district costs. (~\$400M)**
- ▶ **ADOA & School Districts could consider other options, such as varying contribution amounts, a separate pool, etc.**

Request to Speak System - Steps to Take a Position OR Speak on a Bill in Committee

- ▶ Go to <https://apps.azleg.gov/Account/SignOn>
- ▶ Sign-in OR Create Account (*if you are creating an account for the first time, it needs to be activated at the Capitol. Please send Alexis your credentials and she can do that for you)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://apps.azleg.gov/Account/SignOn>. The page title is "Welcome to the Arizona State Legislature Web Application System". There are two main buttons: "Sign Into Your Account" and "Create An Account". Below these, there is a section for signing in with a text input field containing the email address "state48publicaffairs@gmail.com" and a password input field with masked characters. A note below the fields states: "Note: This application is designed to run on Internet Explorer 10 and higher and modern versions of Chrome, Firefox and Opera browsers. Upgrade my browser." At the bottom, there is a large blue "Sign On" button, a link for "Forgot your password?", and a link for "Are you an AZ Legislature employee? Sign On Using My Windows Login".

You can also establish a position on a bill at any time, but are not able to leave a comment

Request To Speak

- Home
- My Requests
- New Request
- My Bill Positions**
- Upcoming Agendas
- Agenda Search
- RTS Manual

My Bill Positions

Session: 2024 - Fifty-sixth Legislature - Second Regular Se

Bill Number: SB1001 - continuation; AS

Your position:

- For
- Neutral
- Against

Who are you representing?

PINAL COUNTY
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Water For Arizona Coalition
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE ACTION FUND
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation

Add

Questions?

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