



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Ty E Gray, Director

5000 W. Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086

www.azgfd.gov

Arizona Game and Fish Commission

James R. Ammons, Chairman-Yuma

James S. Zieler, Vice Chair St. Johns

Eric Sparks, Tucson

Kurt R. Davis, Phoenix

Leland "Bill" Brake - Elgin

Publish Date: Friday, March 16th, 2018

Day of Session:	68
Bills Posted:	1165
Bills Passed:	44
Bills Vetoed:	0
Bills Signed:	26
Mem, Res Posted:	118
Mem, Res Passed:	5

February Session Deadlines

3/23/2018: Last Day to Hear Bills in Committees

Weekly Report is published by the Department's Legislative and Government Affairs Division. While the state's Legislature is in session, legislative staff provides a summary of bills that pertain to the Department, or that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support or oppose along with a tracking list of bills that may have potential impacts to the state's wildlife resources. This document is also available online at: [AZGFD Government Affairs](http://AZGFD.GovernmentAffairs)

Legislative News: Legislators transmitted a total of 36 bills to the Governor this week, the first large batch of legislation to make it through the process. On Tuesday, the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee heard, and passed SB1253. The measure, which renews the Commission's ability to set license structure and fees by rule, has now passed committee four times in its House and Senate forms and has been unanimously supported each time. The Commission has received a great deal of positive feedback for the simplified license structure adopted in 2014. The authority to set the license structure and fees by rule has allowed us to respond timely to customer demands and offer better products such as youth combination hunting and fishing licenses at a \$5 price point. The house version, HB2310 is slated for a "strike everything" amendment in the Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee. This amendment will fundamentally change that bill and leave SB1253 to advance through the process.

Commission Legislative Agenda

HB 2310: *game and fish; licenses; fee.*

Summary: A Game and Fish Commission bill renewing the Commission's authority to set license structure and fees by rule. This legislation also paves the way for updated licenses and license sales by eliminating the requirement that a license be signed in ink on its face to be valid and by eliminating the burdensome reporting and reimbursement requirements on third party retailers associated with a statutory compensation structure. Finally, the bill clarifies the Commission's authority to offer free and reduced price licenses.

Sponsor: Rep. Bowers

Disposition: Hearing – Strike Everything Amendment Proposed

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources 1/30/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 8-0-0-1**

House Third Reading 2/12/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 56-2-1-0-1**

Natural Resources Energy and Water **DO PASS 6-0-2-0**

Commerce and Public Safety – **HEARING 3/19 2:00 PM SHR1**

SB 1253: *game and fish; licenses; fees.*

Summary: A Game and Fish Commission bill renewing the Commission's authority to set license structure and fees by rule. This legislation also paves the way for updated licenses and license sales by eliminating the requirement that a license be signed in ink on its face to be valid and by eliminating the burdensome reporting and reimbursement requirements on third party retailers associated with a statutory compensation structure. Finally, the bill clarifies the Commission's authority to offer free and reduced price licenses.

Sponsor: Sen. Griffin

Disposition: Awaiting Caucus and Floor Action

Natural Resources Energy and Water 1/29/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 8-0-0-0**

Senate Third Reading 2/13/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 27-2-1-0-0**

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources 3/13/2018 **DO PASS 8-0-0-2**

Other Bills of Interest

HB 2203: *wildland fuel loads; watershed protection*

A municipal mayor or a chairman of a county board of supervisors is authorized to determine that a "catastrophic wildland fuel load" (defined) exists on state or federal land located within the municipal or county boundaries. Factors the mayor or chairman may consider in evaluating whether a catastrophic wildland fuel load exists are listed. On determining that a catastrophic wildland fuel load exists, the mayor or chairman is required to take a list of actions, including notifying the federal or state agency that manages the land. Information that must be included in the notice is specified. The mayor or chairman is authorized to enter into a plan with the federal or state agency to abate the catastrophic wildland fuel load. If the federal or state agency does not respond within 30 days after notice or indicates that the agency will not abate the catastrophic wildland fuel load, the mayor or chairman is required to notify and consult with the municipal or county attorney and the Attorney General. If the mayor or chairman determines that a catastrophic wildland fuel load exists on federally managed land and adversely affects or constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare of the municipal or county residents, the mayor or chairman is required to pursue all remedies allowed by law. Additionally, the powers and duties of the State Forester are expanded to include providing for watershed protection and enhancement, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Water Resources. The State Forester is authorized to take specified actions for the purposes of watershed protection and enhancement, including removing certain woody biomass or entering into cooperative agreements with municipalities or counties to do so.

Sponsor: Rep. Finchem

Disposition: Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water

Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs **DO PASS 5-2-0-1**

House Third Reading 2/15/2018 **DO PASS 37-22-1-0-0**

Natural Resources, Energy and Water **HEARING 3/19 2:00 PM SHR 109**

HB 2342: *off-highway vehicles; definition; user indicia.*

Summary: For the purpose of off-highway vehicle regulations, the definition of "off-highway vehicle" is modified to mean a vehicle that is designed, modified or purpose-built primarily for recreational non-highway all-terrain travel, and to include a tracked or wheeled vehicle, utility vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, sand rail, and rock crawler. The off-highway vehicle user indicia issued by the Department of Transportation may be a resident or nonresident indicia. A person who is not an Arizona resident and who displays an off-highway vehicle user indicia or registration from their state of residency is no longer exempt from the requirement to have an off-highway vehicle user indicia issued by the Dept in order to operate an all-terrain vehicle or off-highway vehicle in Arizona.

Sponsor: Rep. John

Disposition: Awaiting Caucus and Floor Action

Transportation and Infrastructure 2/14/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 7-1-0-0**

Third Reading **DO PASS AMENDED 59-0-1-0**

Transportation and Technology 3/06/2018 **DO PASS 7-0-0-0**

HB 2404: *license to practice taxidermy; repeal*

Summary: Repeals the requirement for a person to obtain a license from the Game and Fish Commission to practice taxidermy.

Sponsor: Rep. Mosley

Disposition: Awaiting Floor Action

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources 2/06/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED, STRIKE**

EVERYTHING 5-4-0-0

House Third Reading 2/15/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 39-18-3-0-0**

Commerce and Public Safety 3/05/2018 **DO PASS 8-0-0-0**

SB 1144: *conservation easements; notice; valuation*

Summary: The holder of a conservation easement is required to provide for the recording of the easement and its acceptance, and to prepare and provide the information required for the registry of real property burdened by conservation easements to the county assessor for each county in which any portion of the real property is located. The information that must be included in the registry for each parcel is expanded to include the name of the holder of the conservation easement, the name of any governmental body or charitable corporation with a third-party right of enforcement, and the full cash value of the property as determined for the year in which the conservation easement is recorded.

Sponsor: Sen. Griffin

Disposition: Awaiting Floor Action

Natural Resources, Energy and Water 1/29/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 8-0-0-0**

Senate Third Reading 2/12/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 29-0-1-0-0**

Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs 3/01/2018 **DO PASS 8-0-0**

SB1208: *ATVs; off-highway vehicles*

Summary: The specifications for a recreational off-highway vehicle to qualify as an all-terrain vehicle are modified to allow the vehicle to be up to 80 inches in width, increased from 65 inches, and to require the

vehicle to have a steering wheel for steering control, a rollover protection structure, and an occupant retention system.

Sponsor: Sen. Pratt

Disposition: Awaiting Floor Action

Transportation and Technology 1/31/2018 **DO PASS 5-2-0-0**

Senate Third Reading 2/12/2018 **DO PASS 18-11-1-0-0**

Transportation and Infrastructure 2/28/2018 **DO PASS 7-1-0-0**

SB 1493: *environmental quality; dredge, fill permits*

Summary: Adds a new article to Title 49 (The Environment) authorizing the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish a Dredge and Fill Permit Program that is consistent with and no more stringent than the federal Clean Water Act, including a permit program. Establishes a list of requirements for rules adopted by DEQ for the Program. Program rules and permit requirements under the Program are subject to the same enforcement statutes as other water quality control programs and permits. During the process of establishing and assuming state jurisdiction over the Program DEQ is required to negotiate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure that the USACE will continue to process as many pending applications for permits and requests for jurisdictional determinations as possible before the date on which this state officially assumes jurisdiction over the Program. This legislation is repealed on August 1, 2023 unless the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves the Program under the terms of the federal Clean Water Act.

Sponsor: Sen. Griffin

Disposition: Awaiting Floor Action

Natural Resources, Energy and Water 2/12/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 5-2-0-0**

Senate Third Reading 2/22/2018 **DO PASS AMENDED 17-13-0-0**

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources 3/06/2018 **DO PASS 7-3-0-0**

**For a Quick Reference to the Commission's
Position on legislation, please click the links below.**

[Support](#)

[Monitor](#)

[Oppose](#)

- Support – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support these bills
- Monitor – The Game and Fish Department is monitoring the progress of these measures, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has not taken a position.
- Oppose – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to oppose these bills.

**If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact:
David Fernandez, Legislative Specialist: dfernandez@azgfd.gov
This publication may be found online: www.azgfd.com**