



2011 Legislative Report for Taxpayer Activists – Updated 9/30/11

Policy Successes

Policy Goal: Achieve a balanced budget for FY 2012, with \$2 billion in FY2012 spending cuts

Policy Outcome: A balanced budget with \$1.1 billion in spending reductions for FY 2012 was passed by the Senate and House and signed by Gov. Brewer. Due to lawsuits over some spending cuts, special sessions may be necessary to make further cuts.

Bill Number(s): Multiple bills. The budget reduction bills were supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona (no other registered lobbyist in the state supported the spending cuts).

Policy Goal: Creation of school choice Empowerment Accounts for disabled students.

Policy Outcome: Passed by Senate and House and signed by Gov. Brewer. This reform will be tested in court by a lawsuit on church-state/Blaine Amendment and other grounds.

Bill Number(s): SB 1553 was supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Increase transparency by requiring that school districts post their proposed budgets, approved budgets, and annual financial reports prominently on their websites.

Policy Outcome: Passed by Senate and House and signed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): HB 2421 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Increase transparency by requiring that local governments post their proposed and approved budgets prominently on their websites.

Policy Outcome: Passed by Senate and House and signed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): HB 2422 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Reform the state's pension programs for government employees to get those employees to contribute more to their pension plans. (AFP-Arizona's original goal was to move all future government workers to defined contribution plans—SB 1340--but after that failed, we threw our full support behind the more modest version—SB 1609.)

Policy Outcome: Passed the Senate and House, and signed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): SBs 1340 and 1609 were supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Defeat Gov. Brewer's attempt in the June special session to pass an extension of Unemployment Insurance benefits from 79 to 99 weeks.

Policy Outcome: The extension was defeated.

Bill Number(s): AFP-Arizona played a leading role in shoring up opposition to the bill.

Bills Vetoed by Gov. Brewer

Policy Goal: Pass a statutory state spending limit based on population plus inflation. (AFP-Arizona's original goal was to have a constitutional limit referred to the 2012 ballot, but after that failed, we threw our full support behind the statutory version.)

Policy Outcome: Passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): HB 2707 was supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Introduce managed competition and transparent bidding for city government services in Phoenix and Tucson via legislative reform.

Policy Outcome: SB 1322 passed the Senate and House, despite strong opposition from unions, crony capitalists, and weak-kneed legislators, but was vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): SB 1322 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Expansion of Arizona's school choice tax credit system.

Policy Outcome: Two tax credit expansion bills passed the House and the Senate, but both were vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): HB 2581 and SB 1186 were supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Allow Arizona consumers to purchase health insurance plans regulated in other States.

Policy Outcome: Passed the Senate and House, but vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): SB 1593 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Create interstate compacts to help Arizona and other States challenge the national ObamaCare legislation.

Policy Outcome: Two interstate compact bills passed the Senate and House, but were vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): AFP-Arizona supported SB 1592 and SB 1088, but our main focus was on SB 1593—the unilateral interstate health insurance purchase reform.

Policy Goal: Pass a statutory limitation on property tax levy increases by county library, jail, and health services districts. (AFP-Arizona's original goal was to have a constitutional limit—SCR 1039--on all secondary taxing districts referred to the 2012 ballot, but after that failed, we threw our full support behind the modest limit on library, jail, and health services.)

Policy Outcome: Passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): HB 2338 was supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Failures

Policy Goal: Paycheck protection—express annual written consent required for any employer to withhold money from employee paychecks for political purposes. AFP-Arizona's goal was to put a constitutional paycheck protection measure (SCR 1028) on the November 2012 ballot.

Policy Outcome: SCR 1028 passed the Senate, but failed to get to the floor in the House.

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A flawed statutory version of Paycheck Protection (SB 1365) pushed by the AZ Chamber of Commerce passed the Senate and the House and was signed by Gov. Brewer. Because of those flaws, the bill was subjected to an equal-protection lawsuit challenge by the unions, and was enjoined by a federal district court judge in late September.

Bill Number(s): SCR 1028 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona. AFP-Arizona also supported SB 1365, until it was marred by Chamber carve-outs.

Policy Goal: Refer a constitutional spending limit reform onto the 2012 ballot. SCR 1026 was a modified TABOR limit, and SCR 1019 was a lowering of the state's existing constitutional spending limit (which limits state spending to a portion of state personal income).

Policy Outcome: SCR 1026 and 1019 passed the Senate, but failed to move in the House.

Bill Number(s): SCRs 1026 and 1019 were sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona. When they failed to move, AFP-Arizona threw its weight behind the HB 2707 statutory reform.

Policy Goal: Pass pro-growth reductions in state personal and corporate income taxes.

Policy Outcome: The "Jobs Bill" passed by the Legislature and Governor was mostly corporate welfare, with real corporate rate cuts delayed until at least the year 2013. Even a more modest reform--tax relief for Arizona corporations through adjustment of the corporate tax sales factor (SB 1552)—was vetoed by Gov. Brewer.

Bill Number(s): AFP-Arizona exposed the "Jobs Bill" for the sham it was.

Policy Goal: Pass a Truth in Spending bill that would require a special vote and a special hearing—to be publicized by the Legislature—if the Legislature planned to increase state spending faster than the rate of growth of population plus inflation.

Policy Outcome: Pass the Senate, but failed to get to the floor in the House.

Bill Number(s): SB 1408 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona.

Policy Goal: Move all future government workers to defined contribution plans.

Policy Outcome: Failed to move in either the Senate or the House.

Bill Number(s): SB 1340 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona. After SB 1340 failed to move, AFP-Arizona got behind SB 1609, a more modest reform.

Policy Goal: Refer a constitutional limit on property tax levy increases by all secondary local government taxing districts to the 2012 ballot.

Policy Outcome: Failed to move in the Legislature.

Bill Number(s): SCR 1039 was sponsored and supported/lobbied by AFP-Arizona. After it failed to move, we threw our full support behind HB 2338, the modest limit on library, jail, and health-service taxing districts.