

<u>Arizona's 2025</u> <u>Legislative Session:</u> <u>A Summary</u>

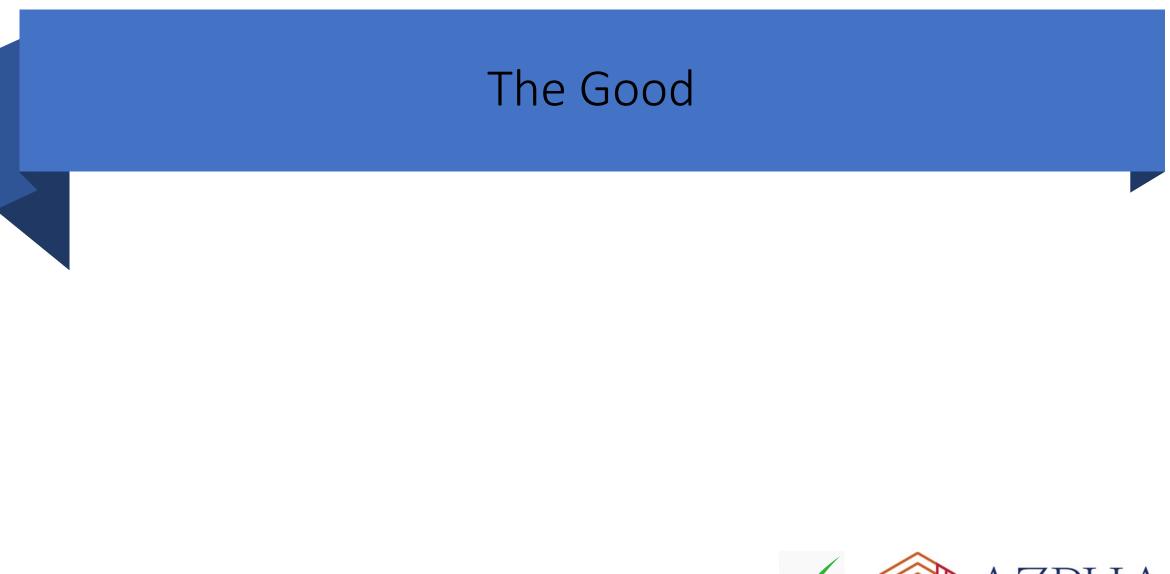
Arizona Rural Health Conference

June 3, 2025

Arizona's 2025 Legislative Session:

Policy Bridges Over Troubled Water June 3, 2025

Will Humble Arizona Public Health Association





Public Health Licensing



• <u>SB1308</u> Public health licensing; sober living

- Establishes better standards for sober living homes.
 - New standards will promote the recovery, health & safety of residents, provide activities that promote independent living and life skills development, forbid alcohol and drugs and track/ notify ADHS of resident overdose harm.
- Raises the cap on civil penalties to \$1,000 from \$500.

Public Health Licensing





- Requires ADHS to provide a priority matrix for complaints filed against health care institutions on its public website
- Makes ADHS do an annual training program for licensing surveyors, supervisors and managers.
 - Note: Important intervention given numerous auditor general reports during the Ducey/Christ area reclassifying high risk complaints as low to cook the books

Health Insurance





- Requires health insurers to <u>individually review</u> denials & prior authorizations.
- All medical necessity denials must be reviewed by a licensed medical director who must exercise independent clinical judgment.
- Prohibits CMOs and surrogates from relying solely on recommendations derived from other sources like AI during the denial review.



Health Insurance Credentialing





- Requires health insurers to finish provider credentialing within 60 calendar days after they get a complete credentialing.
- Will relieve staffing bottlenecks.

Behavioral Health







- <u>SB1604</u> licensed secure health facility; defendants
 - Makes clear that Title 13 (criminal) & Title 36 patients (civil commitment) can't be stationed at the same secure behavioral health residential facility (SBHRF).
 - Removes a barrier for the development of badly needed SBHRFs.

Environmental Health



• <u>HB2145</u> Registered Sanitarians



- Expands the way people can become a Registered Sanitarian:
 - 3 rather than 5 years of employment as a sanitarian aide;
 - 3 rather than 5 years of military duty in environmental health; or
 - 30 semester hours in subjects relevant to the role of sanitarian, including 22 semester hours in the natural sciences.
 - May increase pool of Sanitarian candidates for environmental health work.

Nutrition







• <u>HB2164</u> Ultraprocessed foods in schools

- Schools who participate in the federal free and reduced lunch programs can't serve or sell (or allowing a third party to sell) ultraprocessed food on school campus during the normal school day.
- Starts 2026-2027 school year.
- Girl Scout cookies?

Opioids







• HB2291 Opioid Containers

- Eliminates the requirement that prescription opioid containers have a red cap.
- Provision was doing more harm than good making it easier to divert.

Weed







HB2179 Marijuana advertising restrictions

- Establishes a host of restrictions for the advertising of marijuana, marijuana products and paraphernalia.
- Restrictions on proximity to schools, the types of characters the ads use & limits sponsorships of child/adolescent/young adult events.

In State Medical School Admission





• <u>SB1727</u> Medical School – In State Applicants

 Requires Current (UA) and future public in-state medical schools to interview every qualified applicant from Arizona who submits a timely application & give them priority consideration (limited to first round admissions).

Injury Prevention







• <u>SB1182</u> Construction Hours; Preemption

- Stops local jurisdictions from prohibiting construction work after 5am M-F and after 7am on Saturdays from May 1 to October 15.
- Designed to prevent heat injuries by letting outdoor work start earlier.
- Laws silent on HOAs.

Signed Bad Bills

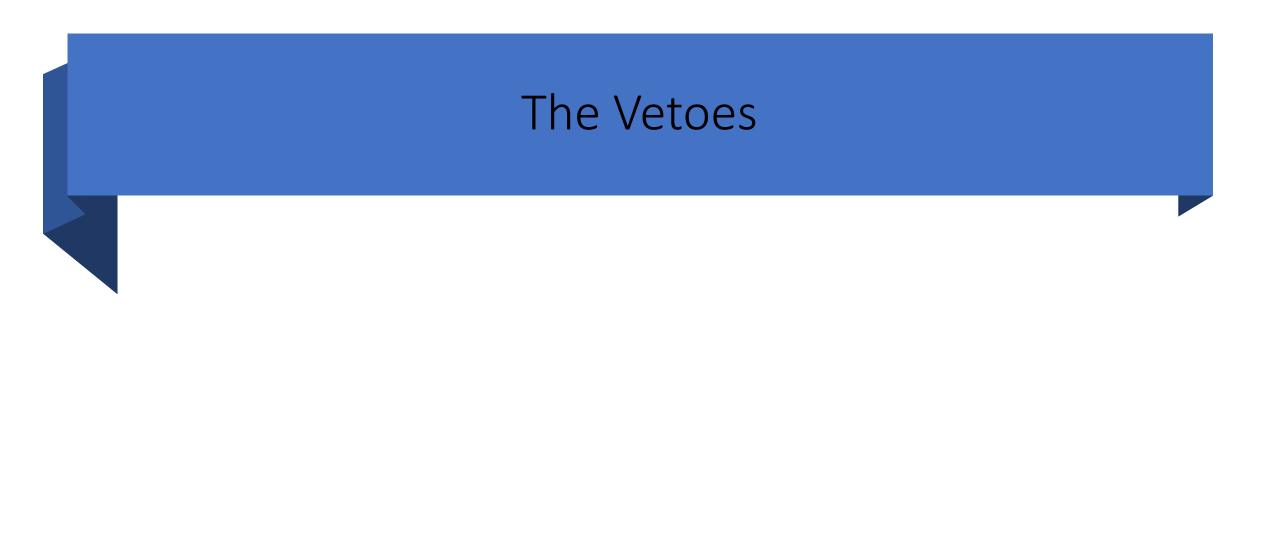


Social Determinants



HB2679 power; public utilities; UCC; securities

- Allows monopoly utilities like APS issue bonds & impose "nonbypassable" (mandatory) fees on customer bills.
 - Even if the ACC rejects a bond application, the "nonbypassable" consumer fee —would still be added to your bill.
- Utilities will move bad debt off their balance sheet by issuing bonds & make customers pay the bond off with mandatory fees.
- Incentivizes utilities to keep inefficient & dirty coal plants operating longer & make customers pay the bonds off.
- Decommissioned coal plants need to be replaced with methane rather than renewables or nuclear.
- Bad for low-income people & the environment.





Vaccines





• <u>HB2063</u> parental notification; school immunization exemptions

- Would have required schools to explicitly advertise that parents can exempt their kids from school immunization requirements.
- Vetoed

Vaccines





• <u>HB2257</u> DCS Placement; Vaccination

- Would have prohibited DCS from refusing to place a child with a foster home or kinship foster care parent based solely on the vaccination status of the child or other children in the home.
- Vetoed

Medical Records





• HB2126 Medical records; parental rights

- Would have required healthcare facilities to provide the parent of a minor child access to their medical records <u>regardless of whether</u> <u>parental consent is required for the medical treatment</u>.
- Vetoed

Food Insecurity





- Would have required included a host of new bureaucratic hurdles for ADES to meet before qualify someone for SNAP benefits.
- Vetoed

Patient Rights



• <u>SB1268</u> Patient Immigration Status

- Would have required hospitals ask patients whether they're lawfully present in the US.
- ADHS would have been responsible for reporting the information collected 4 times a year.
- Vetoed

Injury Prevention



• <u>SB1020</u> Higher Education; Concealed Weapons

- Would have required public universities and community colleges to allow concealed weapons permit holders to bring pistols to campus.
- Vetoed

Missed Opportunities

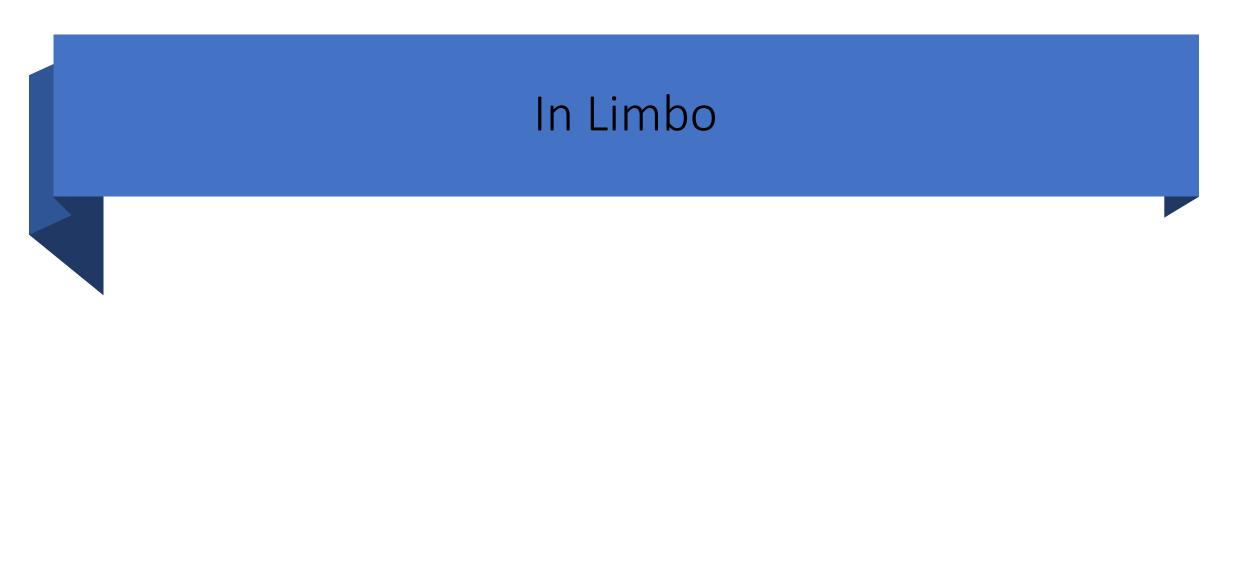


State Agency Governance



• <u>SB1612</u> RFP document retention; AHCCCS

- Would have made AHCCCS follow the state procurement code for their large managed care contracts.
- Would have provided clear requirements for proper document retention during state procurements among all agencies fostering better transparency, accountability, and fairness.
- Vetoed





Injury Prevention



• <u>SB1019</u> photo enforcement; traffic

- Forbids the use of photo enforcement systems for both speeding and running red lights.
 - Red light cameras save lives and prevent serious injuries.
 - Little evidence that photo radar prevents injuries.

State Government Accountability



• <u>HB2051</u> governor question time

 Requires the Governor to appear before the Legislature and answer questions every month during the Legislative Session starting in January 2027.

Never Got Traction

- Comprehensive oral health coverage for Medicaid members
- Consumer protections for denied health insurance claims & prior auths
- Various evidence-based firearm violence prevention bills
- Traditional healing for tribal AHCCCS members
- Improvements in interfacility ambulance service
- Tobacco retail licensing
- Psychologist prescribing authority
- ALTCS eligibility for SMI patients
- Elective electronic monitoring in assisted living and skilled nursing



2025 Budget – General Fund

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