



AZPHA
Arizona Public Health Association

Arizona's 2025
Legislative Session:
A Summary

Arizona Rural
Health Conference

June 3, 2025

Arizona's 2025 Legislative
Session:

Policy Bridges Over Troubled Water

June 3, 2025

Will Humble

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The Good



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Public Health Licensing



- [SB1308](#) 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



• SB1219 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

- HB2175 claims; prior auth; company conduct
 - Requires health insurers to individually review 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



- [SB1291](#) health insurers; provider credentialing; claims
 - Requires health insurers to finish provider credentialing within 60 calendar days after they get a complete credentialing.
 - Will relieve staffing bottlenecks.

Behavioral Health



- [SB1604](#) 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



- [HB2145](#) 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.

- [HB2164](#) **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



- [SB1727](#) 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



- [SB1182](#) 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



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Social Determinants



HB2679 power; public utilities; UCC; securities

- Allows monopoly utilities like APS issue bonds & impose “non-bypassable” (mandatory) fees on customer bills.
 - Even if the ACC rejects a bond application, the “non-bypassable” 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.

The Vetoes



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Vaccines



- [HB2063](#) parental notification; school immunization exemptions
 - Would have required schools to explicitly advertise that parents can exempt their kids from school immunization requirements.
 - Vetoed

Vaccines



- [HB2257](#) 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 regardless of whether parental consent is required for the medical treatment.
 - Vetoed

Food Insecurity



- SB1071 SNAP TANF verification

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

Patient Rights



- [SB1268](#) 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



- [SB1020](#) 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



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State Agency Governance



- [SB1612](#) 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

In Limbo



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Injury Prevention



- [SB1019](#) 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



- HB2051 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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