



# WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## **FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026**

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### **INFORMATION**

*Today is the 71<sup>st</sup> day of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session.*

- The deadline to hear bills in committee is Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
- The 100th day of session will be Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

### **POSTED COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

- House Natural Resources, Energy & Water - 3/24/26, 2:00 PM, HHR 3
  - [SB 1176](#) stormwater storage; replenishment credits
  - [SB 1287](#) stock watering; active management areas
- Senate Natural Resources - 3/24/26, 1:30 PM, SHR 1

### **BILL SUMMARIES**

*The following list of bills is not a comprehensive list of bills ADWR Legislative Affairs tracking this session and is intended to provide a summary view of relevant legislative activities. All bills not heard in committee of origin as of this week have been removed.*

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

[HB2026](#) - assured water supply; commingling

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, when determining whether a proposed subdivision has sufficient water for a certificate of assured water supply, to evaluate only the specific water sources dedicated to the proposed use, regardless of whether the water will be distributed through a delivery system that commingles multiple water supplies.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 10, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources DO PASS (5-3-0-0)

[HB2027](#) - physical availability; review; designated providers

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) from applying the physical availability requirements for the Pinal Active Management Area to any city or town in the Phoenix Active Management Area that already holds a designation of assured water supply. Requires ADWR, within 30 days after the effective date of this legislation, to review the physical availability of groundwater and stored water for each city or town in the Phoenix Active Management Area that holds a designation of assured water supply.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 25, 2026 House Committee of the Whole - Retained on Calendar

[HB2028](#) - DWR; application; administrative completeness

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Applications submitted to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) under Title 45 (Water) are no longer exempt from being treated as appealable agency actions when ADWR determines they are not administratively complete.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** Senate Judiciary and Elections hearing - Thursday, 03/26/2026 9:00 AM **Striker Proposed**

[HB2031](#) - grandfathered right; Willcox AMA; extension

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Extends the deadline for filing an application for a certificate of grandfathered groundwater right the Willcox Active Management Area (AMA) to 27 months after the designation of the Willcox AMA. Retroactive to January 8, 2026. Emergency clause.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 17, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources DO PASS (4-3-0-1)

[HB2052](#) - management plan; water loss; percent

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires cities, towns and private water companies that distribute water for municipal use to limit lost and unaccounted-for water in their distribution systems to eight percent or less of all water entering the system from any source, calculated on either an annual or three-year average basis. Directs the Arizona Department of Water Resources to incorporate this requirement into the fifth management period plan and to adopt conforming rules within six months after the effective date.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 3, 2026 Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[HB2053](#) - appropriation; stormwater recharge mapping; sites

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$100,000 from the state general fund in FY2026-27 to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to produce updated stormwater recharge mapping. Requires ADWR, within 180 days after the effective date, to work with an agricultural improvement district and the State Natural Resource Conservation Board to identify potential stormwater recharge sites that have suitable soil conditions, are located on any public or private lands and do not conflict with existing surface water rights or involve stormwater entering adjudicated streams or channels.

**Last Action:** March 9, 2026 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Senate Appropriations

**[HB2056](#)** - appropriation; brackish groundwater; feasibility study

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to conduct a feasibility study of potential brackish groundwater desalination project sites in Gila Bend, Ranegras Plain, the west Salt River Valley and the Little Colorado River plateau, including treatment, transportation and brine-disposal costs. Appropriates \$100,000 from the state general fund in FY2026-27 to ADWR for the study.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** Appropriations, Transportation and Technology DO PASS (6-3-0-1)

**[HB2094](#)** - assured water supply; certificate; model

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), on request, to review and reissue determinations on certain pending applications for certificates of assured water supply in the Phoenix Active Management Area that were submitted between January 26, 2021 and August 31, 2023 and remain undecided. Requires a municipal provider, as a condition of review, to offer long-term storage credits equal to 25 percent of excess groundwater to the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District under specified pricing and duration terms and adjusts related replenishment reporting without changing parcel assessments. Directs ADWR to deem physical availability requirements satisfied for applications supported by specified groundwater models while maintaining all other certificate requirements. Repeals these provisions January 1, 2029. Emergency clause.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 10, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources - HELD

**[HB2095](#)** - assured water supply; well depth

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Modifies the physical availability standard for certificates of assured water supply by requiring the Arizona Department of Water Resources to evaluate the availability of unreplenished groundwater at the point of withdrawal over a 100-year period using current groundwater models. Establishes maximum depth thresholds for determining physical availability of unreplenished groundwater, with different limits for the Phoenix and Pinal Active Management Areas.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 26, 2026 - House Third Reading FAILED (30-24-6-0)

[HB2097](#) - irrigation non-expansion areas; withdrawal; maximum

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Limits groundwater withdrawals in irrigation non-expansion areas by prohibiting withdrawals of more than six acre-feet per acre of legally irrigated land per calendar year from a non-exempt well and authorizes the Arizona Department of Water Resources to assess penalties for exceedances. Extends measuring and annual reporting requirements to subsequent irrigation non-expansion areas, with specified exemptions for small acreage users and limited withdrawals. Exempts state correctional facilities from the per-acre withdrawal cap when irrigating limited acreage for inmate consumption programs. Authorizes the substitution of irrigated acres and the construction of new or replacement non-exempt wells in subsequent irrigation non-expansion areas only if the changes do not result in a net increase in groundwater withdrawals.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 2, 2026 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[HB2099](#) - long-term storage credits; shortage; prohibition

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) from crediting municipal providers with long-term storage credits for Colorado River water or Central Arizona Project water that is stored during a declared Colorado River shortage. Requires ADWR to reject and invalidate any assignment of long-term storage credits that would circumvent this prohibition. Prohibits municipal providers from ordering Central Arizona Project water for underground storage during a declared Colorado River shortage.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 4, 2026 - House Committee of the Whole - Retained on calendar

[HB2101](#) - supply and demand; assessment; groundwater

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Expands the Arizona Department of Water Resources' (ADWR) annual water supply and demand assessment requirements by specifying detailed groundwater basin metrics that must be included in each five-year assessment for each groundwater basin.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 4, 2026 Senate Natural Resources - Removed from Calendar

[HB2116](#) - appropriation; Colorado River litigation fund

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$1 million from the state general fund in FY2026-27 to the Colorado River Litigation Fund.

**Position:** Support

**Last Action:** March 10, 2026 Senate Appropriations, Transportation and Technology - DO PASS (8-0-0-2)

[HB2263](#) - Colorado River water; replenishment; restriction

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Restricts the use or conveyance of Colorado River water diverted from the main stem for replenishment in an active management area to delivery at a permitted facility owned by a multicounty water conservation district or at a permitted groundwater savings facility located on state or private land.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 25, 2026 - House Committee of the Whole - Retained on calendar

[HB2757](#) - Butler Valley; La Paz; groundwater

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to withdraw groundwater from land the county owns or leases in the Butler Valley groundwater basin for transportation to an initial active management area outside the basin for county or municipal use or to meet replenishment obligations of a multi-county water conservation district. Limits conveyance of state or political subdivision land in the Butler Valley groundwater basin used for such withdrawals to La Paz County.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 17, 2026 - House Natural Resources, Energy & Water DO PASS, amended (5-2-0-3)

[HB2758](#) - McMullen Valley; eligible entities; groundwater

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Repeals existing statutory restrictions on groundwater transportation from the McMullen Valley groundwater basin and establishes a new framework allowing eligible public entities and regulated water utilities to withdraw and transport groundwater from historically irrigated acres under specified hydrologic limits, reporting requirements, and cost responsibility conditions. Authorizes transportation of groundwater to an initial active management area or limited use in La Paz County. Requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources to adopt rules and annually report total withdrawals from the McMullen Valley groundwater basin to the Governor and the Legislature.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 17, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources (4-3-0-1)

[HB2827](#) - groundwater withdrawal fee; Pinal AMA.

**Sponsor:** Rep. Chris Lopez (R)

**Summary:** Extends the authority to levy groundwater withdrawal fees in the Pinal Active Management Area for Arizona water banking and groundwater and irrigation efficiency projects four years, through calendar year 2030. Delays the distribution of unencumbered monies from the Temporary Groundwater and Irrigation Efficiency Projects Fund to contributors five years, to December 31, 2032. Delays the repeal of the Fund five years to April 1, 2033.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 5, 2026 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[HB2932](#) - groundwater transportation fee; website; posting

**Sponsor:** Rep. Leo Biasiucci (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to post on its website, within 60 days, the groundwater transportation fee table and to annually update the table to reflect adjustments based on the GDP price deflator.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** Senate Health and Human Services hearing - Wednesday, 03/25/2026 10:00 AM

[HB2933](#) - groundwater transportation fee; counties; fund

**Sponsor:** Rep. Leo Biasiucci (R)

**Summary:** Classifies groundwater transportation fees as general county monies and requires deposit of the fees in the county general fund. Allows a county that establishes a water improvements program to designate an amount or percentage of groundwater transportation fees to fund grants for qualified residential property owners within the groundwater basin or subbasin from which the groundwater was withdrawn, with remaining monies deposited in the county general fund.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 17, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources - HELD

[HB2934](#) - Harquahala; groundwater transportation fee

**Sponsor:** Rep. Leo Biasiucci (R)

**Summary:** Requires a person who transports groundwater from any portion of the Harquahala Irrigation Non-Expansion Area to an initial active management area to pay the groundwater transportation fee to a county that contains a portion of the Harquahala area and does not contain any portion of an initial active management area.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 25, 2026 - House Committee of the Whole - Retained on calendar

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## **SENATE**

[SB1176](#) - stormwater storage; replenishment credits

**Sponsor:** Sen. Warren Petersen (R)

**Summary:** Allows the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to issue water storage permits to store stormwater for aquifer replenishment in a constructed underground storage facility. Authorizes a storer in the Phoenix Active Management Area to recharge stormwater and earn replenishment credits equal to 95 percent of the volume recharged, and allows the use or transfer of those credits to offset replenishment obligations within the same subbasin under specified proximity conditions. Treats replenishment credits as groundwater, not stored water, and authorizes permits for facilities dedicated to stormwater storage or combined sources.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Tuesday, 03/24/2026 2:00 PM

[SB1197](#) - subsequent AMAs; groundwater portability

**Sponsor:** Sen. Timothy "Tim" Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes an owner of an irrigation grandfathered right in a subsequent active management area to use, sell, transfer or lease the right and the associated water duty. Allows an owner to stop irrigating some acres and convey the associated water duty for use anywhere within the same subsequent active management area, including further conveyance by the recipient. Requires notice to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) for any use or conveyance and requires ADWR to adopt rules to implement these provisions.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 27, 2026 Senate Natural Resources DO PASS (4-3-1)

[SB1200](#) - assured water supply; certificate; model.

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

**Summary:** Strike-Everything Amendment Adopted by House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water: Allows a person to use a body of water constructed before January 1, 2026 in an active management area and filled and refilled with effluent as a conduit to transport another type of water for landscaping or other purposes by commingling the waters if the owner or operator measures and annually reports water volumes and adds sufficient effluent to offset net withdrawals. Requires the person to annually report water and effluent volumes withdrawn and delivered to the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 17, 2026 House Natural Resources, Energy & Water DO PASS, Amended, Strike Everything (6-3-0-1)

[SB1202](#) - supply and demand; assessment; groundwater.

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

**Summary:** Expands the Arizona Department of Water Resources' (ADWR) annual water supply and demand assessment requirements by specifying detailed groundwater basin metrics that must be included in each five-year assessment for each groundwater basin.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 10, 2026 -House Natural Resources, Energy & Water DO PASS (6-3-0-1)

[SB1279](#) - weather modification; license; rules.

**Sponsor:** Sen. David C. Farnsworth (R)

**Summary:** Expands weather modification license requirements to include precipitation augmentation, hail suppression, and fog dispersal and applies the licensure requirement to political subdivisions and state agencies, in addition to individuals and corporations. Requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to issue a weather modification license within 120 days after receiving an administratively complete application if ADWR determines that the proposed operation will not cause flooding, property damage, or harm to wildlife and that the proposed chemicals, compounds, or substances have been reviewed and approved by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Establishes license duration, renewal standards, suspension criteria, insurance or financial surety requirements, and an online

public database of licenses and applications. Revises enforcement by authorizing investigations by the Attorney General and providing injunctive relief and attorney fees for prevailing parties. Grants immunity from liability to the state and its agencies for damages resulting from a license issued under the weather modification program. Applies from and after the effective date of updated rules adopted by ADWR and ADEQ.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 3, 2026 - Senate Natural Resources DO PASS, Amended (5-2-1)

**[SB1287](#)** - stock watering; active management areas

**Sponsor:** Sen. Timothy "Tim" Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Updates groundwater statutes to replace references to June 12, 1980 with "the date of designation of the active management area" for determining eligibility to withdraw groundwater for domestic purposes or stock watering under an irrigation grandfathered right.

**Position:** Support

**Last Action:** House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Tuesday, 03/24/2026 2:00 PM

**[SB1447](#)** - groundwater withdrawal fee; Pinal AMA

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

**Summary:** Extends the period during which the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources does not levy a groundwater withdrawal fee in the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA) for Arizona water banking purposes through calendar year 2030, instead of 2026, and extends the authorization to levy a groundwater withdrawal fee in the Pinal AMA for groundwater and irrigation efficiency projects through calendar year 2030, instead of 2026. Extends the date for distributing unencumbered monies from the Temporary Groundwater and Irrigation Efficiency Projects Fund to contributors to December 31, 2032, instead of December 31, 2027, and delays the repeal of the Fund to April 1, 2033, instead of April 1, 2028

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Tuesday, 03/24/2026 2:00 PM

**[SB1785](#)** - water storage facility; withdrawals; area

**Sponsor:** Sen. Warren Petersen (R)

**Summary:** Modifies recovery well permitting for stored water by establishing presumptions for determining whether a recovery well is within the area of impact when an applicant does not submit a separate hydrologic study, including specified proximity standards to storage facilities and infrastructure.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** March 10, 2026 - House Natural Resources, Energy & Water DO PASS (6-3-0-1)