

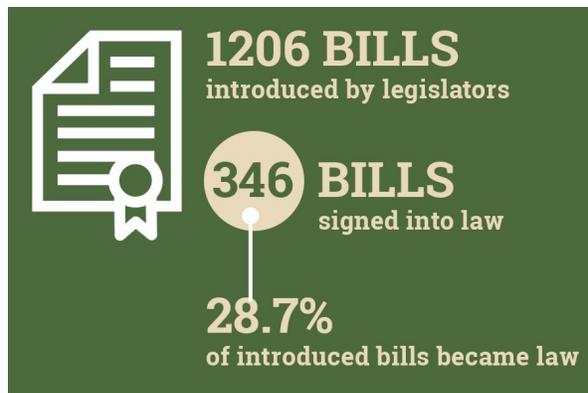


CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

2018 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Second Regular Session of the 53rd Legislature was truly historic. The removal of a sitting legislator by vote of the body and weeklong rallies by educators were the most visible tips of the iceberg. As these events brewed, Arizona Game and Fish rallied support for Commission authority to set license fees and structure by rule. SB1253 also enhances the Department's ability to respond to customer input by updating third party license dealer statutes and clarifying Commission authority to offer discounted licenses.



KEY SUCCESSES

- Protected the Department funds from legislative transfer (sweeps) into the General Fund.
- Retained all Heritage funding, increased flexibility in the Watercraft fund and received adequate appropriation authorities.
- Permanent reauthorization of license simplification, sponsored by Senator Gail Griffin on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission was passed and signed into law by the Governor.
- Worked diligently with legislators and their constituents to ensure legislation pertaining to Off-Highway Vehicle laws was enforceable by the Department and addressed known issues in the best manner possible.
- Coordinated with the Department of Environmental Quality, partners in industry, and legislators to ensure consideration of the In-Lieu Fee Program in legislation authorizing evaluation of state implementation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- Engaged with the sponsor of HB2404 to preserve Department enforcement authority and record keeping amid the proposed repeal of taxidermy licensing requirements.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

Session Recap

At 12:26 AM on May 4th, 116 days after opening, the 53rd Legislature adjourned its second regular session *sine die*. This session saw 1,206 bills introduced, 346 signed into law and 23 vetoed. Another short session, 2018 was nonetheless full of activity and no small amount of surprise.

The Game and Fish Commission directed the Department to focus legislative efforts on a single measure this year, the renewal of license simplification authority. The passage of *Laws, 2013 Chapter 197* allowed the Commission to establish license, permit, stamp and tag fees by rule through July 1st 2019. This authority transformed the operations of the Department, allowing our agency to operate like a business, specifically by allowing the Department to offer products and services that suit our customers' needs quickly and efficiently. Prior to the implementation of this business model changes to license types, tags, permits, stamps and associated fees all required statutory authorization. Optimistically, such changes would take between 1 and 3 years.

With the sponsorship of SB1253 by Senator Gail Griffin, and an identical House measure from Representative Rusty Bowers, *Laws 2018, Chapter 103* removes the sunset date of the Commission's authority, eliminates arbitrary caps on Department revenue and makes several clarifying adjustments to license authorities.

With the Commission's legislative priority passed, and the successful simplified license structure secure it's time to begin the process of preparing for the next session.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Department Approved Budget

2018-2019 Appropriation
SB1520 general appropriations act 2018-2019

\$42,488,300

Agency Detail

FTE positions 273.5	
Operating lump sum appropriation	\$38,430,300
Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson Act	\$3,058,000
Watercraft grants (Single line item)	\$1,000,000*

Fund Sources

Game and Fish fund	\$36,314,400
Capital Improvement fund	\$1,001,200
Wildlife Endowment fund	\$16,200
Watercraft Licensing fund	\$4,810,700
Game, Non-Game, Fish and Endangered Species fund	\$345,800

*The Arizona Game and Fish Department may transfer \$1,000,000 from the watercraft grants line item to the operating budget. Before transferring monies from the watercraft grants line item to the operating budget, the department shall submit an expenditure plan for review by the joint legislative budget committee.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Department Capital Outlay

2018-2019 Capital Outlay <i>SB1522 capital outlay; appropriations; 2018-2019</i>	Amount	Fund Source
Major Maintenance and Repair of State Buildings	\$981,000	Game and Fish Fund
Dam Maintenance	\$150,000	Capital Improvement Fund
Property Maintenance	\$300,000	Capital Improvement Fund

On or before January 31, 2019 and July 31, 2019, the Arizona Game and Fish Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee staff on the status of all building renewal projects and building renewal expenditures.

Before spending appropriations for Dam Maintenance or Property Maintenance, the Arizona Game and Fish Department shall submit the scope, purpose and estimated cost of the capital improvements to the Joint Committee on Capital Review for its review pursuant to section 41-1252, Arizona Revised Statutes.

Pursuant to section 41-1252, Arizona Revised Statutes, the Joint Committee on Capital Review shall review the scope, purpose and estimated cost of a new capital project that has an estimated cost of more than \$250,000.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

Commissioner Confirmation

Leland "Bill" S. Brake - Elgin

Senate Confirmation - March 6, 2018

Leland "Bill" Brake of Elgin was confirmed as a member of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission by the Arizona Senate on March 6, 2018, following his appointment by Gov. Doug Ducey. An avid wildlife enthusiast, he has promoted activities with various wildlife groups in coordination with the Game and Fish Department to encourage involvement of youth and women in wildlife programs. Mr. Brake has owned and operated ranches in various Arizona counties for 50 years and has served as past president and current board member of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, chairing its Wildlife Committee.



He has served as an agriculture consultant for DuPont Agriculture and as chief operating officer and president for distribution of heavy fuels and asphalt for HollyFrontier, which manufactures and markets a variety of asphalt-related products. He served as past chairman of the Arizona Rock Products Association. Mr. Brake is active in the community, serving as a board member and current chair of the Advisory Committee for the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources (Wildlife and Range Management), and on the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Bureau of Land Management for Arizona. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Range Management, with a minor in Wildlife Management, from the University of Arizona.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

2018 Commission Supported Legislation

S.B.1253: game and fish; licenses; fees

Disposition:

Transmitted to Governor	3/26/2018
Signed by Governor	3/29/2018
Chapter Number	103
Effective Date	8/3/2018

Sponsors:

Senators Griffin, Allen, Borrelli, Contreras, Fann, Otondo, Pratt
Representative Bowers

Background:

Laws, 2013 Chapter 197 allowed the Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to establish license, permit, stamp and tag fees by rule through July 1st 2019. The passage of this legislation transformed the operations of the Department and allowed the agency to operate like a business. The Game and Fish Department is able to use this authority to offer products and services that suit our customers' needs quickly and efficiently. The passage of SB1253 into law will allow the Commission to plan for the future with certainty.

The Department has already simplified the matrix of 44 different licenses and associated privileges to a menu of three options: Hunt, Fish, and Combination licenses that offer more value by bundling previously upsold privileges. Recruitment goals have been furthered by offering youth licenses for five dollars, lowering a major barrier to entry in hunting and angling. License promotions have incentivized people to get outside more often, to try something new or return to old pleasures. The Department is also using this authority, at Commission direction, to offer new discretionary products that offer fresh value while helping to keep overall license prices stable. With the certainty offered by SB1253 the Department can now evaluate other customer requests such as multi-year licenses and offer even further improved digital services such as a digital license kept in a smart phone application.



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

SB1253 will allow the Department to improve the offers of complimentary or discounted licenses. With the certainty that this legislation offers, the Department can begin to address a complication for veterans of the armed services who have suffered injuries during their service that are considered to be less than 100% disabling, however those injuries result in their being classified as “unemployable”. Statute predated such determinations, but with the passage of SB1253 the Commission has the flexibility to respond to changes like these.

This legislation modernizes dated statute requiring that the specific amount of 5% of the price of a license be retained by third-party retailers as compensation. As the retail landscape has evolved, a number of inefficiencies have crept into the sale of licenses by third party dealers that negatively impact customer experience and value for the retailer. In addition to archaic reporting requirements, retailers could not previously determine what price may be appropriate for their business even if they might prefer to sell a license and not retain a fee. SB1253 removes the complexities of this mandated compensation in favor of a model that allows retailers to determine their own service fees. The simplified method will also bolster Department efforts to improve the process for retailers, such as the development of point-of-sale solutions allowing digital rather than paper based sale of licenses.

Provisions

1. Repeals the limitation on total fees collected for watercraft and boating fees.
 2. Repeals the limitation on total fees collected for hunting and fishing licenses, permits, tags and stamps.
 3. Removes the requirement that licenses be signed in ink and allows the Commission to establish a method of signature by rule.
 4. Provides permanent authority for the Commission to establish license classifications and fees by rule and eliminates the expiration date of July 1, 2019.
 5. Allows the Commission to reduce the fees for licenses and to issue complimentary licenses.
 6. Allows, rather than requires, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to assign a committee of reference to hold a public hearing to review the Commission's annual report.
 7. Allows license dealers to collect and charge a reasonable fee in addition to the amount charged for all licenses or permits, rather than retaining five percent of license sales.
-



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA'S 53RD LEGISLATURE 2ND REGULAR SESSION - 2018

Bill History for SB1253

Sponsors

GRIFFIN	P	FANN	C
ALLEN S	C	OTONDO	C
BORRELLI	C	PRATT	C
CONTRERAS	C	BOWERS	C

Keywords

AMUSEMENTS AND SPORTS - TITLE 5, ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, GAME AND FISH - TITLE 17, LICENSES, GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, ARIZONA, FEES, LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS, REVIEW

Sections Affected

17-332, 17-338, 5-328, 17-333, 17-333.01, 17-336, 17-336, 5-328, 17-333, 17-333.01, 17-332, 17-338

Short Title

game and fish; licenses; fees.

Senate Committees

Assigned Date	Committee	Report Date	Action	Vote
1/22/2018	NREW	1/29/2018	DPA	8-0-0-0-0-0
1/22/2018	RULES	2/5/2018	PFC	0-0-0-0-0-0

Senate First Read

1/22/2018

Senate Second Read

1/23/2018

Minority Caucus

2/6/2018 Yes

Majority Caucus

2/6/2018 Yes

Senate COW #2

Date	Ayes	Nays	NV	Exc	Vac	Emer	Amended	RFE	RFEIR	2/3	Vote	Action
2/8/2018	0		0	0	0	0	0					

DPA

Amendments

NREW (ref Bill) adopted

Senate Third Reading

Date	Ayes	Nays	NV	Exc	Vac	Emer	Amended	RFE	RFEIR	2/3	Vote	Action
2/13/2018	27		2	1	0	0	0		Yes			

PASSED

Transmit to House

2/13/2018

House Committees

Assigned Date	Committee	Report Date	Action	Vote
2/19/2018	EENR	3/13/2018	DP	8-0-0-2-0-0
2/19/2018	RULES	3/19/2018	C&P	7-0-0-2-0-0

House First Read

2/19/2018

House Second Read

2/20/2018

Consent Calendar

3/19/2018 Object No

Majority Caucus

3/20/2018 Yes

Minority Caucus

3/20/2018 Yes

House Third Reading

Date	Ayes	Nays	NV	Exc	Vac	Emer	Amended	RFE	RFEIR	2/3	Vote	Action
3/22/2018	55		4	1	0	0	0					

PASSED

Transmit to Senate

3/22/2018

Transmit to Governor

3/26/2018

Governor Action 3/29/2018 Signed (Chapter 103)