

***A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.***



In the May 31, 2019 CSA Weekly Update:

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## After 135 Days the 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session Adjourned Sine Die



The prolonged budget negotiations brought lawmakers to the capitol over the weekend and Memorial Day. However, lawmakers were able to reach an agreement to extend the statute of limitations involving a minor who was a victim of unlawful sexual conduct to 12 years after the plaintiff reaches 18 years old, or until the individual is 30 years old, instead of 20 years old. It also allows victims who would otherwise be time-barred from bringing a civil case until December 31, 2020 to come forward. [HB 2466 NOW: civil action; assault; limitations; applicability \(Blackman\)](#) passed with unanimous support in both chambers and became effective upon the signature of the Governor Tuesday afternoon.



Late Monday night the Senate adopted the budget bills passed by the House on Saturday morning. After a flurry of moving the remaining bills through the process, the Legislature appointed committees to notify the opposite chamber that they had completed their labors and were ready to adjourn *Sine Die* 12:58 a.m. Tuesday morning. The adopted FY 2020 budget reached \$11.9 billion, an increase of \$1.5 billion over FY 2019.

Of the 1318 bills introduced this year, the legislature passed 331 bills and Governor Ducey has signed 261 of them (so far) and vetoed seven. Session lasted 135 days, last year session lasted 116 days. This was the longest session in 6 years, going back to the 2013 session that lasted a total of 151 days.

### **CSA Budget Priorities Included in the FY 2020 Budget:**

- **Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) One-Year Full Cost Relief:** Prohibits ADJC from assessing the fee in FY 2020, so all counties will see relief in FY20. Modified statute to provide permanent relief to 13 counties but maintained the requirement for two larger counties in future years. Therefore, absent action Maricopa and Pima will face financial exposure in FY 2021. FY 2020 relief - **\$11.26 million.**
- **Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) Relief:** Appropriates \$3.0 million from the state General Fund in FY 2020 to be distributed equally across counties with a population under 300,000. The JLBC Budget spreadsheet scores the appropriation as ongoing. - **\$3.0 million.**
- **Wayfair:** Makes changes to state statute to allow for the collection of state transaction privilege tax and local excise taxes on remote sales if the seller's income from customers in the state is more than \$200,000 in 2019, \$150,000 in 2020 and \$100,000 for 2021 and each year thereafter. Authorizes the collection of tax on sales through marketplace facilitators if the income derived in the state is more than \$100,000.
- **Restricted Flexibility Language:** As session law, allows counties under 250,000 persons to use up to \$1.25 million of any county-wide special district funds to meet any county fiscal obligation. Counties are still required to report to the JLBC by October 1, 2019, if the county used the flexibility language and if so, the specific amount and source of revenue used.

### **CSA Legislative Policy Priorities:**

- [HB 2467 NOW: committees; west basin water users \(Cobb\)](#), was signed by the Governor, Laws 2019, Chapter 243.
- [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien \(Borrelli\)](#), was signed by the Governor, Laws 2019, Chapter 193.

For the Joint Legislative Budget Committee outline of the enacted state budget, please click [here](#).

**Image Source:** Twitter @dougducey

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## Wildfire Season Begins



The warm windy weather has brought some of the first fires of the season to Arizona. There is currently one wildfire burning in Arizona – the Maroon Fire in Coconino County. The Maroon Fire, burning 18 miles northeast of Flagstaff off Leupp Road near Maroon Crater, was caused by a lightning strike and has consumed nearly 100 acres and has grown slowly even with recent rainy weather.

The recent Dove Fire in Maricopa County burned over 1200 acres. Investigators found the fire was human caused, but additional details have not been released as it is still under investigation. According to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, annually 90% of wildfires are ignited from human activity and they recommend a few simple actions that can be taken by campers, individuals towing recreational vehicles and property owners to reduce the risk of a wildfire. Below are a few recommendations for how individuals can help prevent wildfires:

- Follow all posted fire restrictions and when campfires are permitted, make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving the site.
- When towing a vehicle, make sure the chains are secure and do not drag.
- Reduce dead fuels on personal property ([Homeowners' Firewise Guide for Arizona](#)).



It is illegal to interfere with firefighting efforts per the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 9212.1(f) and flying unauthorized drones near a fire creates significant risks to the firefighters, public safety and can bring air wildfire fighting operations to a halt. For more information about the impact of unauthorized drones on wildfires, please see the National Interagency Fire Centers [website](#).

For up to date information on wildfires, please click on the following links:

- [Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention](#)
- [Arizona State Forestry Division](#)
- [Arizona State Parks Fire Restrictions and Information](#)
- [InciWeb – Interagency All-Risk Incident Information Management System](#)
- [Federal: Active Fire Maps](#)
- [Fire Restrictions](#)

**Image Source:** [@azstateforestry](#) & [Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention](#)

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## Temperatures Rising - Prevent Hot Car Deaths

Vehicles heat up quickly in the sun and according to the [National Safety Council](#), in 2018, 52 children died from vehicular heatstroke, the highest in the last 20 years. A car parked outside can rise over 20 degrees of the outside temperature within 10 minutes. To keep children, adults and pets safe, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends always checking the back seat before walking away.

Laws 2017, Chapter 301 ([HB 2494](#)) exempts a person from civil liability for using reasonable force to enter a locked vehicle to remove a child or pet if the person believes that the child or pet is in danger of injury or death if not removed. The individual must notify a peace officer or emergency services provider, check if the vehicle is locked before using force to enter the vehicle and stay with the child or animal until authorities arrive.

To view a free online course on danger of vehicular heatstroke from the NSC, please click [here](#).

To view the NHTSA's Tips to Avoid Child Heatstroke, please click [here](#).

Image Source: [@AZDHS](#)



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## NACo Webinar: Making it Count

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00-12:00 p.m. MST, NACo will be hosting the webinar "Making it Count: The Role of the 2020 Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds by County." This webinar will focus on the role of the census in determining the annual geographic allocation of over \$900 billion in federal funds to states and local communities and the impact of an undercount on communities.

For more information and to register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

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