

ARIZONA REALTORS® LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Lawmakers seemed to slow their frantic pace over the past week and are plodding toward the end-of-March deadline to hear bills in committees—only two weeks left to do so.

Now that more members have received vaccines, the Senate is allowing them to participate in-person but hearings are still closed to the public and all caucus meetings remain unavailable.

The American Recovery Plan, recently signed by President Biden, will deploy approximately \$12.3 billion in resources to Arizona—nearly tripling the CARES Act funding received last year. This new relief funding could create issues for budget negotiations as State lawmakers have been advocating for more tax cuts. Interested parties are busy trying to interpret a provision in the federal aid package that could prohibit state legislatures from implementing additional tax breaks.

So, what are the REALTORS® doing for you? [SB1310](#) (Shope), establishing a REALTOR® Specialty License Plate, as well as supporting affordable housing efforts in the state, passed unanimously through the House Transportation Committee last Wednesday and now heads to the House Floor before reaching the Governor's Desk. On the defensive front, the REALTORS® have been working hard, successfully working with bill sponsors to amend [HB2128](#) (Osborne) and [HB2759](#)(Grantham) to protect license fees and rulemaking. However, not all opposition is that easily resolved. After Senator David Gowan failed to adopt the REALTORS® amendment to his bill, [HB1598](#), which would allow transaction coordinators to work for more than one broker and thus creating significant liability and conflict-of-interest concerns, the REALTORS® elevated of opposition by issuing a Call For Action asking Broker members to call their Senators and urge them to vote NO on SB1598 as it stands. Lastly, the REALTORS® are also monitoring bills around short-term rentals, homestead exemptions, HOAs and evictions to ensure that our core principles are protected. We may not always agree with legislators, but your investment in RAPAC has allowed us to foster long-lasting relationships with elected leaders and find solutions when we do disagree. For more information on bills visit www.AZleg.gov.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Arizona Department of Economic Security launched the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) on February 22. To access the application and additional program information, please visit: <https://des.az.gov/ERAP>. Additionally, the US Department of Treasury issued a [new FAQ document](#). While this is a positive step, the Arizona REALTORS® remain at the table to ensure tenants in need get assistance, rent gets paid on-time and property owners are made whole!

Passed REALTOR® Legislation: [HB2085](#) (Chaplik) *real estate; employees; rent collection*

SESSION SUMMARY AS OF March 14, 2021

Day of Session: 65

Bills Posted: 1708

Bills Passed: 63

Bills Vetoed: 0

Bills Signed: 44

Mem, Res Posted: 116

Mem, Res Passed: 1

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **3/26:** Last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills.
- **4/16:** Last day for conference committees.
- **4/24:** Saturday of the week of the 100th day of session. This is the date required by rule for sine die adjournment unless leaders extend the deadline. Leadership can extend it no more than 7 days; thereafter any extension requires a majority vote in each house.

BILLS TO WATCH

- **HB1598** *Real Estate Transaction Coordinators in Senate Rules Committee*
- **HB2617** *Judgments; Liens; Homestead in House Committee of the Whole (COW)*