



LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY REPORT



Friday, June 26th, 2026

57th Legislature,
Second Regular Session

Total Days of Session	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Signed into Law	Total Bills Vetoed
153	2,030	264	151



Legislative Session Summary

The 57th Legislature, Second Regular Session has finally wrapped up, and the Department received its fish hatchery appropriation request! In total, Governor Hobbs signed four of the Department's bills of interest into law this session, two of which were budget bills, HB4156 and SB1847. [HB4156](#), capital outlay; 2026-2027, included the Department's appropriation request for \$11 million to modernize Tonto Creek and Bubbling Ponds Hatcheries. As a reminder, this \$11 million did not come from the state general fund; all \$11 million is sportsmen-generated dollars, and the Department was required to get this money "appropriated" from the Legislature. [SB1847](#), the general appropriations act; 2026-2027, sweeps \$5 million from the Department's Heritage Land Acquisition Fund and \$3.4 million from the Watercraft Licensing Fund and transfers this funding to the State General Fund. The Commission remained neutral on both budget bills.

As for non-budget bills, Governor Hobbs also signed both HB2763 and HB2257 into law earlier this week. The shooting range; closure; conditions, HB2763, adds the requirement that the Legislature must adopt a Joint Resolution approving the closure of a shooting range to the existing statute that outlines the conditions the Commission must follow to close a state-owned shooting range. HB2763 only applies to the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. The Commission was neutral on HB2763.

HB2257, the watercraft fund; distribution of monies striker bill, decreases the percentage of watercraft fee money the Department receives in the Watercraft Licensing Fund from 65% to 55% and increases the amount designed Sheriff's Departments receive through the State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) and Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) from 35% to 45%. This bill also removes the allocation formula (the Department was formerly required to use a complex formula to determine the percentage each county received monthly) and outlines new, consistent LEBSF allocations per county. The Commission remained neutral on HB2257. All bills will go into effect by September 12th.

The next legislative session, the 58th Legislature, First Regular Session, will commence the third week of January in 2027.



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SIGNED BILLS OF INTEREST

SB1847 / HB4154 - general appropriations act; 2026-2027

Sponsor: Senator Farnsworth (R-10)

Transfers \$5 million from the Department's Heritage Land Acquisition Fund and \$4.3 million from the Watercraft Licensing Fund to the State General Fund.

Commission stance: Neutral

HB4156 / SB1849 - capital outlay; 2026-2027

Sponsor: Rep Livingston (R-28)

Appropriates \$1,932,900 from the Game and Fish Fund to the Department for the maintenance and repair of the Department's facilities and \$11,000,000 from the Game and Fish Fund for the modernization of the Department's hatchery infrastructure. Appropriates \$550,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the maintenance of the Department's dams and hatcheries.

Commission stance: Neutral

HB2257 - S/E: watercraft fund; distribution of monies

Sponsor: Rep Biasiucci (R-30)

AS AMENDED: Modifies the percentages collected from watercraft fees that are distributed for the Watercraft Licensing Fund from 65% to 55% and for SLIF and LEBSF from 35% to 45%. Removes allocation formula and outlines new LEBSF allocations per county: 1.03% to Apache County, 10.45% to Coconino County, 7.35% to Gila County, 12.5% to La Paz County, 9.65% to Maricopa County, 49.22% to Mohave County, 0.5% to Navajo County, and 9.3% to Yuma County.

Commission stance: Neutral

HB2763 - shooting range; closure; conditions

Sponsor: Rep Nguyen (R-1)

Adds the requirement that the Legislature must adopt a Joint Resolution approving the closure of a shooting range before it is sent to the Governor to approve through Executive Order.

Commission stance: Neutral



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

VETOED BILLS OF INTEREST

1. HB2787 - federal nullification; Mexican wolf; reintroduction
2. SB1280 - public monies; Mexican wolf; prohibition

FAILED BILLS OF INTEREST

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| 3. SB1155 - G&F; complimentary licenses; veterans | 12. HB2058 - game and fish commission; membership |
| 4. SB1050 - veterans; lifetime state park pass | 13. HB2157 - livestock loss inspector; appropriation |
| 5. HB2147 - deer; taking; landowner permits | 14. HB2160 - Mexican wolf; management committee; appropriation |
| 6. HB2158 - predatory animals; definition | 15. SB1519 - off-highway vehicles; weight; enforcement fund |
| 7. HB2159 - Mexican wolves; landowner permits; rules | 16. HB2398 - watercraft; insurance requirements; penalties |
| 8. HB2162 - game and fish commission; membership. | 17. HB2156 - livestock compensation fund; appropriation |
| 9. HB2197 - unlawful camping; stock; wildlife; access | |
| 10. HB2497 - right to hunt; fish; harvest | |
| 11. HB2161 - sovereign authority; endangered species act | |