

Bigamy, cellphones, cloning on legislative agenda this year

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A state Capitol rally Tuesday by 700 to 800 people for better health coverage for autistic children reflected the passions underlying many of the bills filed so far in the 2008 legislative session.

Parents advocated for "Steven's Law," SB 1263, which would require health plans to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism-related disorders.

Expect more rallies in coming weeks along with testimony in legislative hearings covering subjects ranging from child bigamy to bake sales.

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So far, 1,102 bills have been filed in the

House and Senate. Here are examples of other bills worth watching as the session unfolds.

Child Bigamy. House Bill 2009. The bill, which passed unanimously out of the House Human Services committee Thursday for the second year in a row, would block courts from awarding custody of a child or granting unsupervised visits to a parent who engages in child bigamy, a polygamous marriage involving someone who is underage.

Text Messaging. HB 2396. Would prohibit operation of a motor vehicle on a highway while using a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant to send or receive a written message while the motor vehicle is in motion.

Marriage License - Proof of Citizenship. HB 2631. County clerks shall not issue a license if both applicants do not provide their Social Security numbers and proof of U.S. citizenship.

Banning Human Cloning. Senate Bill 1208. Would make it unlawful for any person or public or private entity to intentionally or

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knowingly perform human cloning or participate in human cloning.

No Child Left Behind Opt Out. HB 2392. Beginning Jan. 1, would remove Arizona from participation in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Multiple-Birth Siblings. HB 2039. Would require a school district or charter school to place multiple-birth siblings in the same classroom or in separate classrooms as requested by a parent.

Free water, compressed air. HB 2664. Beginning Jan. 1, every service station in Arizona would have to make compressed air, water and a gauge for measuring air pressure available at no cost to those who buy fuel.

Breast-feeding in the workplace. HB 2450. An employer would have to provide a reasonable unpaid break time each day to an employee who needs to express breast milk for her infant child.

Bake sales. SB 1096. Would exempt food and drink prepared and offered at a bake sale from Department of Health Services food-handling rules and standards.

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