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Legislative Briefing

CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

Phone records

The House voted unanimously Monday to make it illegal for companies or individuals to use deceptive means to obtain the phone records of any Arizona resident.

The proposed law comes as some firms advertising on the Internet have offered to sell anyone's phone bills. But the information usually is obtained from the phone company through illegal means, often by someone posing as a police officer or investigator.

Rep. Jonathan Paton, R-Tucson, want to make the sale of such records illegal and also directs phone companies to establish procedures to protect against unauthorized disclosure. The measure now goes to the Senate.

Human egg sales

A Senate panel voted 5-2 Monday to ban the sale of human eggs — but not before narrowing the scope of the ban.

The bill approved by the House made it a crime for women to sell and for doctors, researchers and others to buy human eggs for any purpose, punishable by up to a year in prison, regardless of whether it was for cloning research or for in vitro fertilization to help women get pregnant.

The measure was amended to allow fertility-related sales to continue without state regulation.

The measure now goes to the full Senate.

Classroom flags

On a voice vote, the House of Representatives gave preliminary approval Monday to requiring that an American-made U.S. flag be in every public school, community college and state university classroom.

Current law says only that every school must have a flag, presumably displayed on a pole in front of the building.

Rep. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, said the measure, which still requires a final vote, recognizes "our heritage."

Pearce agreed to amend the measure to require schools to first try to get donated flags from businesses. Then the state would fund any gaps.

Undocumented workers

The House voted 31-29 Monday to make it a violation of state law for companies to knowingly hire people not in this country legally.

The resolution seeks to ask voters to enact new sanctions against employers, including fines and possible loss of their state or local licenses. It also requires state agencies to audit up to 5 percent of companies they license to verify all their workers are legal.

The measure now goes to the Senate and, if approved there, would be on the November ballot.

MVD inconvenience

The House refused Monday to give a \$5 credit for each 30 minutes that a customer has to wait before being served at state Motor Vehicle Division offices.

Foes of the credit said the penalty would do nothing to provide MVD with more cash to hire additional workers or upgrade its computer system.

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