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Legislative briefing

CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

Identification cards

Arizona voters may be asked to do what the governor would not: block Arizona communities from honoring the Mexican consular identification card.

The Senate Government Committee voted Thursday to prohibit state and local governments or agencies from accepting or recognizing any ID card unless it is issued by a government, law enforcement or homeland security agency.

The move is aimed at barring the use of a card issued by Mexican consulates to citizens of that country living in the United States.

Lawmakers are upset with communities, including Tucson, Chandler, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix, that have agreed to honor the consulate cards when presented by people needing certain public services, such as having water turned on or getting a library card or a business license.

Gov. Janet Napolitano vetoed identical legislation last year.

This measure, Senate Concurrent Resolution 1030, would put the issue on the November ballot, bypassing the governor.

Immigration

The Senate voted 17-11 Thursday to allow police to charge people in this country illegally with trespassing.

Senate Bill 1157 is designed to give local police a state law to stop, arrest and incarcerate those who have violated federal immigration law. But it would also give officers the option, on a first offense, to simply deport the person or turn him or her over to a federal agency.

Otherwise, a first offense would be punishable by up to a year in prison. Subsequent violations can bring a 2 1/2-year prison term.

The measure now goes to the House.

Voluntary taxes

On a voice vote, the Senate gave preliminary approval to putting a box on the state's income tax form to let residents and businesses pay something extra.

The sponsor said Senate Bill 1457 is aimed at people who call or write legislators to say they want more money spent on various programs. This would let them prove they're willing to dig into their own pockets.

A final roll-call vote will send the measure to the House.

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