

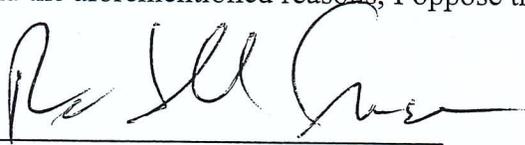
Minority Report
Fifty-Second Legislative Session
Conference Committee for SB1201
Arizona historical society; board; membership

I oppose the conference committee amendment to SB1201, Arizona historical society; board; membership. The bill would require the governor to appoint the Arizona Historical Society's (AHS) Board of Directors and makes specific membership requirements from counties based on population. I supported SB1201 with Representative Brophy McGee's floor amendment, which allowed current Board members to serve until the expiration of their term in office. The amendment instructed half of the board to consist of Governor appointed members and half to be composed of members elected by AHS. Additionally, the amendment required 6 members to represent counties with populations less than 900,000. While the conference committee amendment allows current AHS board members to serve the remainder of their term, it does not address a number of AHS' standing concerns.

The conference committee amendment reverts AHS to an all Governor appointed board, disregarding input from the Society. While AHS is not opposed to having a partially governor appointed board, they are interested in maintaining some degree of a member elected board. Members of AHS join voluntarily and dedicate their time and efforts to the preservation and access of Arizona's history. Having a member elected board, safeguards AHS's goals and furthers the purpose of the Society.

Furthermore, the conference committee amendment requires membership from every county which could prove problematic and burdensome to members from rural counties. Members are responsible for all travel and lodging costs to attend the bimonthly meetings, for which they are not reimbursed. Currently the board has representation from various counties throughout the state, however struggles in recruiting members from rural counties due to the financial toll attending meeting incurs. Setting specific membership requirements for rural counties opens the door for vacant seats on the board. AHS believes removing membership requirements for smaller, rural counties comes at a benefit to members that may be otherwise forced to absorb travelling costs to attend meetings.

Finally the conference committee amendment was not agreed upon or discussed with AHS. For this and the aforementioned reasons, I oppose the conference committee amendment.



Representative Randy Friese