

Commerce Committee

Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita, Chairperson



Laura Benitez, Research Analyst

Jordan Pittman, Intern

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ENACTED

property management records; residential rentals (S.B. 1096) – Chapter 69

Specifies that the *related residential rental agreement documents* a property management firm must keep for one year after a rental agreement expires, or until the records are provided to the property owner upon termination of the property management agreement, may include: 1) rental applications with tenant-identifying information; 2) move-in forms; and 3) default notices. Adds electronic means as an authorized method for property management firms to keep certain property management records. Prescribes storage location requirements for other statutorily required documents and allows the documents to be kept electronically.

certified public accountants (S.B. 1131) – Chapter 72

Modifies certified public accountant (CPA) regulations for firm registration, certificate and registration expiration and reinstatement, and use of the CPA designation. Adds the authority to approve continuing professional education reciprocity requests to the powers that the Board of Accountancy (Board) may delegate to the Executive Director of the Board. Replaces the requirement that the Board revoke the registration of a firm that does not meet all firm registration requirements and has not been granted a compliance extension with an automatic expiration of the firm's registration. The Board may prescribe, rather than waive, by a Board relinquishment or revocation order, statutory education requirements for completion before an individual requests reinstatement of an expired, relinquished or revoked certificate. Narrows the prohibition on a registrant whose certificate is on retired status or who is requesting retired status from providing attestation services or compilation services to a prohibition only on providing attestation services or compilation services in Arizona. Resolves conflicting timeframes after which a suspended certificate or registration that is not reinstated expires.

Requires an individual CPA who uses the CPA designation with a name other than the name of the registered individual to register as a firm and pay the firm registration fee every two years. A limited reciprocity privilege registrant, individual or firm may use the CPA designation only with the exact name registered with the Board.

professional regulatory boards; composition (S.B. 1274) – Chapter 75

Restructures the statutory membership of the Arizona Board of Technical Registration (AZBTR), the Board of Barbers, the Board of Cosmetology, the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers and the Board of Massage Therapy to result in a majority-public membership. Retains the membership of board members serving on August 25, 2020 until the expiration of their normal terms and requires the Governor to make all subsequent appointments as prescribed.

Increases the total membership of the AZBTR from 9 to 11 by adding 5 public members and decreasing the number of professional members from 8 to 5. Retains the landscape architect, geologist and land surveyor positions, one of the two architect positions and one of the three engineer positions. One public member must have legal, construction or design product background.

Replaces the prescribed membership of the three licensed positions on the Board of Barbers with two licensed positions that may be filled by a barber who has actively practiced for five years, holds a barber shop or salon license or holds a barber school license. Replaces the prescribed membership of the five licensed positions on the Board of Cosmetology with three licensed positions that may be filled by a cosmetologist, nail technician, instructor or school owner who has actively practiced for three years. No more than one of the licensed members on the Board of Barbers or the Board of Cosmetology may be appointed under the same criteria. Requires at least one public member on the Board of Massage Therapy to be actively involved in programs or services that help to reduce or prevent human trafficking.

department of gaming; continuation (S.B. 1275) – Chapter 36

Continues the Arizona Department of Gaming for six years, until July 1, 2026, retroactive to July 1, 2020.

electric cooperatives; broadband service (S.B. 1460) – Chapter 84

[SEE THE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMITTEE.](#)

unemployment compensation; coronavirus disease (S.B. 1694/H.B. 2911) – Chapter 48 E

An emergency measure effective March 27, 2020, and retroactive to March 11, 2020, that allows the Department of Economic Security (DES) to implement alternative unemployment insurance benefit eligibility and employer contribution requirements consistent with U.S. Department of Labor guidance for individuals and employers affected by a federal declaration of emergency related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). DES may not approve shared work benefits for individuals whose normal weekly hours are reduced by more than 80 percent. DES may not consider increased benefits charged against an employer's account from alternative benefit eligibility requirements when fixing Unemployment Compensation Fund employer contribution rates. DES may adopt rules for the administration of the alternative benefit eligibility and employer contribution requirements and is exempt from administrative procedure requirements during the federal emergency declaration period.

Expresses the Legislature's intent that the authority granted to DES is to provide additional resources and flexibility for the Unemployment Insurance Program (UI Program) for individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19. Additionally, the Legislature intends that Arizona ease eligibility requirements and strengthen access to the UI Program for affected individuals and businesses during the federal declaration of emergency.

Taiwan; United States; trade; support (S.C.R. 1025)

SEE MEMORIALS & RESOLUTIONS.

personal representatives; funeral directors; prohibition (H.B. 2249) – Chapter 18

Disqualifies a creditor who is a funeral director or funeral establishment owner who has control of a decedent's remains from seeking court appointment as a personal representative of the decedent's estate.

residential utility consumer office; continuation (H.B. 2601) – Chapter 21

Continues the Residential Utility Consumer Office for eight years, until July 1, 2028, retroactive to July 1, 2020.

building permits; utilities; restrictions; prohibitions (H.B. 2686/S.B. 1222) – Chapter 3

SEE THE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMITTEE.