July 6, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington St, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1592 (governor’s declaration; fiscal impact analysis)

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today I vetoed S.B. 1592. This legislation sought to provide fiscal certainty to the City of Phoenix during extraordinary circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic, when tourism and business conferences were significantly down from normal levels. While fiscal certainty is a worthy goal, this legislation fails to consider important context and attempts to solve a problem that does not yet, and may never, exist.

Last September, the Arizona Auditor General (AAG) evaluated the economic impact of the Phoenix Convention Center that further calls into question the need for this legislation. The report determined that the City of Phoenix remains nearly $31 million in the black when it comes to the annual cost-benefit calculation.

Further, this legislation does not account for any attempt by local elected officials to impose onerous lockdown restrictions on their cities, which would level the local economy and require the state government to pick up the bill.

Just as Arizonans tighten their belt, invest wisely, and plan for a rainy day — government must do the same. We’ve taken that approach at the state level, and our local government should be held to the same expectation.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
    The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Rick Gray
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News Service