



ARIZONA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE

**End of Arizona State Legislative Session Report 2024
Fifty- Sixth Legislative Session**

AACIHC Legislative Report

Submitted by: Corey Hemstreet
AACIHC Legislative Liaison

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Arizona Advisory Council, we would like to thank our respective stakeholders, leaders, legislators, and advocates for their valuable contributions to our agency's policy initiatives.

Mission

The mission of the AACIHC is to educate and advocate for improved health outcomes for all American Indians in Arizona, by increasing access to high quality health care programs.

We serve as a resource for all Tribal governments and the State of Arizona, by supporting prevention, training, education, and policy development to meet the unique health care needs of the Arizona Indian population.

Vision Statement

The AACIHC strives to be recognized as a trusted resource on American Indian health care for all Tribal Nations and Tribal communities throughout Arizona.

Value Statement

A - Authenticity

A - Accountability

C - Culture

I - Integrity

H - Holistic

C - Community

AACIHC Purpose

Per Arizona Revised Statutes ([A.R.S. 36-2902.01](#)), the AACIHC is established...*to give tribal governments, tribal organizations and urban Indian health care organizations in this state, representation in shaping Medicaid and health care policies and laws that impact the populations they serve.*

Overview of Legislative Session

The 2024 legislative session convened on Monday, January 8, 2024 and adjourned *sine die* (end of the legislative session) on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

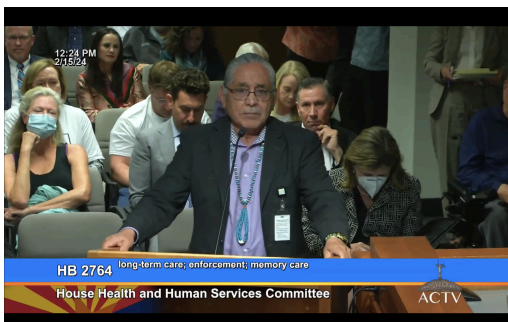
There were about 1,700 bills introduced and 274 bills signed into law by the Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. In addition, Gov. Hobbs signed into law a \$16.1 billion state budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

AACIHC Legislative Priorities

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Peoples Bills

[House Bill 2764- long-term care; enforcement; memory care](#)

- Sponsor: Representative Timothy Dunn | Legislative District: 25
- Overview of Bill: Requires the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish by rule standards for memory care services for assisted living facilities that are licensed to provide directed care services. Modifies DHS duties and authorities relating to oversight of health care institutions. Establishes requirements relating to Adult Protective Services (APS) investigations into abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult. Modifies the membership of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (NCIA Board). Establishes the Vulnerable Adult System Study Committee (Study Committee) and outlines Study Committee membership, duties and reporting requirements.
- Key Provisions:
 - Raises the cap on ADHS impose civil money penalties to \$1,000 per patient per day
 - Authorizes ADHS to deny a change in ownership of a currently licensed health care institution if the transfer would jeopardize patient safety (prevents license hopping).
 - Requires facilities to ensure staff aren't on the Adult Protective Services Registry.
 - Requires ADHS to develop a separate certification for places that want to provide memory care services.
- Final Disposition: **Signed by the Governor on 04/08/24**



[House Bill 2249: residential care institutions; inspections](#)

- Sponsor: Representative Heather Carter | Legislative District: 15
- Bill Overview: Prohibits the Director of the Department of Health Services (Director) from accepting an accreditation report in lieu of conducting compliance investigations for a behavioral health residential care institution.
- Key Provisions:
 - Prohibits the Director from accepting accreditation reports in lieu of conducting compliance investigations of residential care institutions that provide behavioral health services.
 - Becomes effective on the general effective date.
- Final Disposition: **Died in the Senate**

[House Bill 1361- sober living homes](#)

- Sponsor: Senator Frank Carroll | Legislative District: 28
- Bill Overview: SB1361 is a bill that seeks to enhance the regulation and oversight of sober living homes in Arizona.
- Key Provisions:
 - Modifies requirements of the Department of Health Services (DHS) relating to the licensing, oversight and regulation of sober living homes.
 - Prescribes guidelines for the inspection and penalizing of sober living homes that are noncompliant with applicable state and local regulations. Repeals certified sober living homes.
 - Redefines what constitutes a sober living home, excludes certain premises from this definition, and prohibits payments for patient referrals.
- Final Disposition: **Held awaiting Senate final reading; therefore the bill died**

[House Bill 2205- fraud unit; investigations; annual report](#)

- Sponsor: Representative David Livingston | Legislative District: 22
- Bill Overview: Specifies that monies appropriated to the Department of Insurance and Financial Institution (DIFI) for DIFI's Insurance Fraud Unit (Fraud Unit) are exempt from lapsing.
- Key Provisions:
 - Specifies that monies appropriated to the Fraud Unit are exempt from lapsing.
 - Makes a conforming change.
 - Becomes effective on the general effective date.
- Final Disposition: **Died in the Senate**

[Senate Bill 1655- behavioral health entities, regulations](#)

- Sponsor: Senator Teresa Hatathlie | Legislative District: 6

- Bill Overview: Makes various changes related to the licensing, oversight and regulation of behavioral health entities (BHEs) and sober living homes.
- Key Provisions:
 - Increases the cap on civil penalties for violation of health care institution statutes from \$500 to \$10,000.
 - Establishes the Indigenous Peoples Protection Revolving Fund with money from civil penalties.
- Status: **Failed in the HHS committee.**

Oral Health Bills:

Senate Bill 1037- AHCCCS: Comprehensive dental care

- Sponsor: Senator Thomas Shope | Legislative District: 16
- Overview: Expands Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) coverage of dental services, from only emergency dental care and extractions, to include coverage of comprehensive dental care for members age 21 and older.
- Key Provisions:
 - Requires AHCCCS contractors to provide coverage of comprehensive dental care for persons who are at least 21 years old, with a maximum annual amount of \$1,000 per member.
 - Removes dentures from the list of prosthetic devices that are excluded from AHCCCS coverage for persons who are at least 21 years old.
 - Makes technical and conforming changes.
 - Becomes effective on the general effective date.
- Final Disposition: **Held in Senate; therefore, the bill died.**