

JLBC MEETING

At its July 19, 2007 meeting, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) considered the following issues:

Department of Economic Security – Review of Expenditures of Federal Workforce Investment Act Monies – The Committee gave a favorable review to the FY 2008 expenditure plan of \$1.5 million for Workforce Investment Act monies.

Department of Public Safety – Review of the Expenditures and Progress of the Microwave Communications System – The Committee gave a favorable review of the expenditures and progress made to upgrade the microwave communication system. Laws 2006, Chapter 345 appropriates \$2.5 million in state funds from FY2007 through FY2009. In addition, Chapter 345 included an intent statement that the project annually receive \$1.6 million in federal Homeland Security funds from FY 2007 through FY 2009. Federal monies were not received by DPS in FY 2007.

At the meeting, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security indicated that they would fully fund the \$1.6 million per fiscal year, beginning in FY 2008, and for the full amount of \$4.8 million, as intended by the Legislature. The committee requested that DPS report back by October 31, 2008 on the status of the microwave communications project and federal Homeland Security grant funding.

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security was recently notified of its federal homeland security grant funding for federal FY 2007. Federal funding increased from \$20.2 million in federal FY 2006 to \$51.5 million in federal FY 2007, including \$17.7 million that has been earmarked for the Public Safety Interoperable Communication Grant Program (PSIC).

Department of Educations – Review of Structured English Immersion Model for English Language Learners - The Committee deferred action regarding the review of the draft models of Structured English Immersion in order to allow time for greater review of the materials and information presented. Laws 2006, Chapter 4 established the Arizona English Language Learners Task Force and required it to develop and adopt research based models of “Structured English Immersion” (SEI) for use by school districts and charter schools. The Task Force is required to submit the models to the Committee at least 30 days before adopting them.