

SB1200 (mineral museum restoration) was passed by the Senate and was progressing through the House. However, a problem has appeared. The bill was assigned to both the appropriations committee as well as the rules committee even though it is budget neutral. Also, the session is about to end. Both of these committees will have their last meeting for 2015 next week. **If the bill does not get on next week's agenda for both committees, it will fail.**

**We need immediate input to the following key people.** Say a few words about the value of the mineral museum and especially the K-12 education programs.

**Here is some advice from Lynne Breyer;** everyone in your sphere of influence who wants the bill passed needs to contact Rep Olson and request he add this to his committee agenda for consideration during this session. Impress upon him some of the excellent talking points you have about why this museum is so important to the education of children. Mention how many children enjoyed this museum annually. Short, to the point, cordial. Develop some talking points and be sure each person writes their own letter using about three of the talking points. No form letters. *Get me the talking points and I'll put out another call to action. ---- Good luck.*

I may also be helpful to point out (in your own words) that the bill does not require additional spending. There is confusion about that. Details are at the end of this message.

*Emails from group to him would also help. Just need to ask that he please place SB 1200 on the next Appropriations committee meeting for Wednesday March 25th.*

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**And the Governor** - There is a very convenient email form on [www.az.gov](http://www.az.gov)

### Background on cost issues:

The following text is included in the House summary for SB1200 on az.gov:

**Laws 2014, Chapter 18 required the AHS and the Department of Administration (ADOA) to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) with options for the use of the vacant museum building located at 1502 West Washington Street in Phoenix. A report was submitted, which provided four options, approximate costs or proceeds for the options and the preferred option of the AHS and the ADOA. The options included:**

1. Reopening the Mining and Mineral Museum - \$2,120,300
2. Converting the space into offices - \$3,081,500
3. Selling the facility - \$2,900,000 (estimated proceeds)
4. Maintaining the status quo - No Cost

The report submitted to JLBC provided **that the AHS and ADOA agreed to option 4**. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Baseline includes \$428,300 to cover the \$360,800 facility rent payment to ADOA and the \$67,500 salary for the museum curator.

**There appears to be confusion due to item one above. That really means reopening the mineral museum *building* for use as a *different* museum. AHS board minutes show that the AHS viewed this as an option for a modern history museum. On page 235 of the FY2016 baseline budget, this option is described thus: \$2.1 million related to significant building system upgrades and space reconfiguration.**

**Clearly, significant upgrades and reconfiguration is not needed to simply reopen the mineral museum. The building was usable and functional when the doors were locked in 2011. The DOA has received about \$2 million in rent on this mortgage free building while it stood empty, and should have been maintaining it as is.**

**The following is a message from former curator Jan Rasmussen:**

We now have a chance to reinstate the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum as the Mining, Mineral and Natural History Educational Museum. SB1200 transfers the responsibility and funds for the museum from the Arizona Historical Society (which closed the museum) to the Arizona Geological Survey. This is a money neutral bill, and has passed the Senate and House Natural Resources committee, but goes to the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, even though no additional state funds are needed: it is simply a transfer of the mineral museum rent and curator salary from AHS to AZGS. The session will probably end at the end of next week, so if it does not pass next week, the bill is dead. Would you please send out to your colleagues, friends, and family a request to write to their AZ House representative to support SB1200?

The former volunteers are enthusiastic about recreating the museum, but need help from a variety of industries and voters to put the museum under the direction of AZGS, which will get it started again.

When I was curator of the museum (2007-2010), we had 25,000 school children per year visit the museum and learn about the importance of mining and minerals to their lives and our economy. The AHS closed the museum April 30, 2011 and so 100,000 Arizona school children have missed the message about how important mining is. We also had an additional 25,000 visitors/year, about half of whom were parents with children and half were visitors from in and out of state.