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Legislative briefing

CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

Teen drinking

Adults who provide teens with liquor could end up hoofing it around town under the terms of legislation signed Monday by Gov. Janet Napolitano.

The new law, which takes effect late this summer, permits a judge to suspend the driver's license of the offending adult for up to 30 days for a first offense.

Repeat violators could lose their license for up to six months.

Backers of the measure say the threat of losing a license may help deter adults from helping teens get beer, wine and liquor.

Poppers are now legal

Napolitano signed legislation Monday to legalize party poppers and similar noise-making devices.

Current state law makes possession of any device with even a limited amount of gunpowder illegal.

The measure, crafted by companies that make firecrackers, relaxes that ban a little bit by permitting poppers, snap caps and other items with small amounts of explosives.

The law will not take effect until late this summer - too late for this year's Fourth of July celebrations.

Housing costs

Napolitano vetoed legislation Monday that would have barred cities from enacting "inclusionary zoning" laws.

The measure pushed by Sen. Tim Bee, R-Tucson, would make it illegal for cities to mandate that developers sell a certain percentage of their homes at below-market prices.

That practice is being considered by some communities as a method of ensuring there is a supply of affordable housing.

The governor, noting no city has yet issued such a mandate, promised to convene a meeting this summer "to arrive at a consensus approach that takes into account the best interests of all Arizonans."

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