

Community Legislative Network – Hot Bills

(As of June 17, 2022)

HB 2009: VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAW; SCHOOLS

At the request of a member of the Legislature, the Attorney General is required to investigate any official action taken by a school district or charter school governing board that the member alleges violates state law or the state Constitution. If the Attorney General concludes that there is a violation, the Attorney General is required to notify the school district or charter school of the violation by certified mail. If the school district or charter school fails to resolve the violation within 30 days, the Attorney General is required to notify the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and ADE must withhold 10 percent of the monthly Classroom Site Fund monies that the school district or charter school is eligible to receive, with some exceptions, for each month the violation continues. The Attorney General is required to continue to monitor the response of the school district or charter school, and when the violation is resolved, is required to notify the Governor and the Legislature, and to notify ADE to stop withholding monies to the school district or charter school. A school district or charter school that has Classroom Site Fund monies withheld is prohibited from reducing the pay or benefits of an employee who is a teacher, instructional staff or classified staff in any manner during the same fiscal year that the monies were withheld.

Sponsor: Representative Kaiser (R—LD 15)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to House Government & Elections; Failed to Pass Government & Elections 5-8-0; Passed Government & Elections on Reconsideration Amended 7-6-0; Passed Rules; Held in COW; Passed COW with Substitute Amendment; Failed to Pass 3rd Read 26-32-2

Position: ~~Oppose (Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates or mandates that negatively affect public school districts)~~

[Introduced Version](#)

[House Government & Elections Amendment](#)

HB 2276: STATE LAW; VIOLATION; SCHOOLS; UNIVERSITIES

At the request of a member of the Legislature, the Attorney General is required to investigate any official action taken by the Arizona Board of Regents, a community college district governing board, school district or charter school governing board, university, community college, charter school, or school district school that the member alleges violates state law or the state Constitution. If the Attorney General concludes that there is a violation by ABOR, a university, a community college district, or a community college, the Attorney General is required to impose a civil penalty of an unspecified amount (blank in original) for each month the violation occurs. If the Attorney General concludes that there is a violation by a charter school, school district, or school district school, the Attorney General is required to notify the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and ADE is required to withhold an unspecified percent

(blank in original) of the monthly Classroom Site Fund monies the district or charter school is eligible to receive

Sponsor: Representative Fillmore (R-LD 16)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to Government & Elections; Passed Government & Elections Amended 7-6-0; Passed Rules

Position: ~~Oppose (Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates or mandates that negatively affect public school districts)~~

[Introduced Version](#)

[House Government & Elections Amendment](#)

HB 2278: ALTERNATIVE MATHEMATICS GRADUATION PATHWAY NOW: STUDENT TUITION ORGANIZATIONS

Repeals the individual Credit for Contributions to Certified Student Tuition Organizations (STOs) and modifies caps relating to remaining STO tax credits.

Sponsor: Representative Fillmore (R-LD 16)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to House Education; Passed Education 7-3-0; Passed Rules; Passed COW; Passed 3rd Read 33-26-1; Transmitted to the Senate; Assigned to Senate Education; Withdrawn from Education; Assigned to Appropriations; Passed Appropriations with Strike Everything Amendment 6-4-0

Pending Position: ~~Oppose (Oppose legislation that may result in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools)~~

[Introduced Version](#)

[Senate Appropriations Strike Everything Amendment](#)

HB 2803: EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS; UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY

Any child who attends a public school in Arizona is eligible for an Arizona empowerment scholarship account.

Sponsor: Representative Fillmore (R-LD 16)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to House Ways & Means; Passed Ways & Means with Strike Everything Amendment 6-4-0; Passed Rules

Position: ~~Oppose (Oppose legislation that may result in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools)~~

[Introduced Version](#)

[House Ways & Means Strike Everything Amendment](#)

HB 2808: SCHOOLS; OPERATION; IMPROVEMENTS

Establishes the Arizona Achievement District (AAD) within the Department of Administration to support the expansion of high quality public schools for students in Arizona. The AAD consists of the Arizona Public School Credit Enhancement Program and the newly established Expanding Access to Excellent Schools Program (EAES Program). Establishes a 9 member AAD Board and requires the Board to establish an application process and selection criteria for a charter school or school district school to qualify as

an AAD school. Establishes criteria for charter schools and school district schools to be eligible to qualify as an AAD school. A charter school that is an AAD school is not subject to any enrollment caps prescribed by its sponsor, and is authorized to expand and serve additional students. An AAD school is permitted to apply for funding as part of the EAES Program. A school district that is required to partner with an AAD or change operations of a failing school may also apply for funding as part of the EAES Program. The AAD Board is required to develop a process for establishing "district partnership schools" (defined). Requirements for agreements to establish a district partnership school are listed. The AAD Board is required to develop a process to approve a "fresh start school" (defined) to replace a school that was assigned a letter grade of D or F with a high quality school. Beginning in FY2027-28, the State Board of Education (SBE) must require any school that is operated by a school district and that has been assigned a letter grade of D or F in any combination for two consecutive years to initiate either a district partnership school or a fresh start school. If the SBE determines that a district partnership school or a fresh start school is not practicable, the school district may instead either vote to install a new school district superintendent, subject to review and approval by the SBE, or close or consolidate the school. Establishes the Operation Excellence School Improvement Program (OESI Program) to improve academic outcomes and opportunities for all students in schools that meet specified eligibility requirements. Beginning in FY2022-23, SBE is required to identify schools that will be designated as operation excellence schools, and schools are authorized to opt in to the OESI Program. For FY2022-23 through FY2024-25, schools in the OESI program that have an improvement plan approved by SBE will receive \$150 per student enrolled in the current school year. Establishes various reporting requirements. Much more. Appropriates \$58 million from the general fund in each of FY2022-23, FY2023-24, and FY2024-25 to the School Achievement Improvement Fund for to OESI Program. Retroactive to July 1, 2022.

Sponsor: Representative Udall (R—LD-25)

Status: Introduced; Double Assigned to House Education and Appropriations; Passed Education 6-4-0; Withdrawn from Appropriations; Passed Rules; Passed COW Amended

Position: ~~Oppose (Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates or mandates that negatively affect public school districts)~~

[House Engrossed Version](#)

HCR 2039: SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZATION.

The Legislature authorizes school districts to spend local revenues in the amount of \$1,154,028,997 in excess of the expenditure limitation prescribed pursuant to the state Constitution in FY2021-22. This authorization is effective only on the approval of this resolution by at least 2/3 of the membership of each house of the Legislature by roll call vote on or before March 1, 2022.

Sponsor: Representative Bowers (R - LD 25)

Status: Introduced; Passed 3rd Read 45-14-1; Transmitted to the Senate; Substituted for Mirror Bill; Passed Senate 3rd Read 23-6-1; Transmitted to the Secretary of State

Position: Support (Advocate for increased state funding to meet the real costs of educating Arizona's public district students)

[Transmitted to the Secretary of State](#)

SB 1269: ~~CONFORMITY; INTERNAL REVENUE CODE NOW: SCHOOL FINANCE; REVISIONS~~

Establishes the state student funding formula and details funding, tax levy and budget calculations for charter schools and eligible school districts. Modifies the standard school finance formula.

Sponsor: Senator Leach (R - LD 11)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to Senate Finance; Passed Senate Finance Amended 9-0-1; Passed Rules; Passed COW; Passed Senate 3rd Read 29-0-1; Transmitted to the House; Assigned to House Appropriations; Passed Appropriations with Strike Everything Amendment 8-5-0

Position: Oppose (Advocate for increased state funding to meet the real costs of educating Arizona's public district students)

[Senate Engrossed Version](#)

[Appropriations Strike Everything Amendment](#)

SB 1657: ESAS; STOS; STUDENT EMPOWERMENT FUND

For the purpose of Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts (ESAs), the definition of "qualified student" is expanded to include a child whose parent is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, a child who meets the income eligibility requirements for free or reduced lunch, a child whose household receives benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Section 8 public housing assistance, a child who resides within the attendance boundary of a school that qualifies for schoolwide Title I program funding for low-income students, a child who participates in or previously participated in the educational recovery benefit program or any successor grant program that provides services to students attending a school that ceases to provide in-person instruction or implements any student mandate in violation of state law, a child who resides within the attendance boundary of a school district whose governing board requested monies for new construction or an addition to an existing school due to enrollment projections exceeding existing capacity, a child whose parent is a "first responder" (defined), and a child of a "health professional" (defined elsewhere in statute) who is employed full-time and who provides direct patient care. Expands the list of authorized expenses that monies in an ESA account may be used for to include public transportation services between the student's residence and a qualified school, and "computer hardware or technological devices" (defined) primary used for an educational purpose. A child who participates in an ESA continues to be entitled to an equitable share of the funding that would otherwise be allocated to a charter school or school district for that child from the Classroom Site Fund, and the amount is required to be deposited in the child's ESA account each year. Increases the maximum aggregate totals of tax credits for School Tuition Organizations (STOs) to \$6

million in FY2021-22 and \$10 million in FY2022-23, from \$5 million, and requires the cap to be annually increased by the greater of the percentage annual increase in the metropolitan Phoenix consumer price index or two percent. Eliminates the cap on the amount of an STO educational scholarship for a student based on their grade level. Establishes the Student Empowerment Fund (SEF). Beginning in FY2022-23, after the statutory transfers of money already established, \$25 million of revenues from the additional transaction privilege tax rate for education must be transferred to the SEF. Monies in the SEF are used to provide ESA accounts to students who reside within the boundaries of any school district that receives more in annual funding per pupil than the amount charged for tuition and fees per student at a state university, or that spends local revenues in excess of the school district expenditure limitation in the state Constitution. The Department of Education is required to accept applications for ESA accounts funded by the SEF on a first-come, first-served basis each year until the monies in the SEF are exhausted. Severability clause.

Sponsor: Senator Boyer (R - LD 20)

Status: Introduced; Assigned to Senate Education; Passed Education 5-3-0; Passed Rules; Passed COW; Passed 3rd Read 16-12-2; Transmitted to the House; Assigned to House Ways & Means; Passed Ways & Means Amended 6-4-0

Position: Oppose (Oppose legislation that may result in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools)

[Introduced Version](#)

[House Ways & Means Amendment](#)

~~SB 1707: ESAS; GRANT RECIPIENTS; QUALIFIED STUDENTS~~

~~Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, any student who received a grant under the COVID-19 educational recovery benefit program or the open for learning recovery benefit program on or before June 30, 2022 is deemed a qualified student for the purposes of the empowerment scholarship account program. Emergency clause:~~

~~**Sponsor:** Senator Boyer (R - LD 20)~~

~~**Status:** Introduced; Assigned to Senate Education; Passed Education 5-3-0; Passed Rules; Passed 3rd Read 16-12-2; Transmitted to the House; Assigned to House Appropriations~~

~~**Position:** Oppose (Oppose legislation that may result in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools)~~

~~[Introduced Version](#)~~