START\_STATUTE41-1276.  Truth in taxation levy for equalization assistance to school districts

(Caution: 1998 Prop. 105 applies)

A.  On or before February 15 of each year, the joint legislative budget committee shall compute and transmit the truth in taxation rates for equalization assistance for school districts for the following fiscal year to:

1.  The chairpersons of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees.

2.  The chairpersons of the appropriations committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or their successor committees.

B.  The truth in taxation rates consist of the qualifying tax rate for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects pursuant to section 15‑971, subsection B, paragraph 1 and a qualifying tax rate for a unified district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects pursuant to section 15‑971, subsection B, paragraph 2 that will offset the change in net assessed valuation of property that was subject to tax in the prior year.

C.  The joint legislative budget committee shall compute the truth in taxation rates as follows:

1.  Determine the statewide net assessed value for the preceding tax year as provided in section 42‑17151, subsection A, paragraph 3.

2.  Determine the statewide net assessed value for the current tax year, excluding the net assessed value of property that was not subject to tax in the preceding year.

3.  Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection by the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

4.  Adjust the qualifying tax rates for the current fiscal year by the percentage determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection in order to offset the change in net assessed value.

D.  Except as provided in subsections E and G of this section, the qualifying tax rate for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects and the qualifying tax rate for a unified school district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects for the following fiscal year shall be the rate determined by the joint legislative budget committee pursuant to subsection C of this section. The committee shall transmit the rates to the superintendent of public instruction and the county boards of supervisors by March 15 of each year.

E.  If the legislature proposes qualifying tax rates that exceed the truth in taxation rate:

1.  The house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall hold a joint hearing on or before February 28 and publish a notice of a truth in taxation hearing subject to the following requirements:

(a)  The notice shall be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation in this state that is published at the state capital.  The first publication shall be at least fourteen but not more than twenty days before the date of the hearing. The second publication shall be at least seven but not more than ten days before the date of the hearing.

(b)  The notice shall be published in a location other than the classified or legal advertising section of the newspaper.

(c)  The notice shall be at least one‑fourth page in size and shall be surrounded by a solid black border at least one‑eighth inch in width.

(d)  The notice shall be in the following form, with the "truth in taxation hearing — notice of tax increase" headline in at least eighteen‑point type:

Truth in Taxation Hearing

Notice of Tax Increase

In compliance with section 41‑1276, Arizona Revised Statutes, the state legislature is notifying property taxpayers in Arizona of the legislature's intention to raise the property tax levy over last year's level.

The proposed tax increase will cause the taxes on a $100,000 home to be $(total proposed taxes including the tax increase).  Without the proposed tax increase, the total taxes that would be owed on a $100,000 home would have been $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All interested citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase that is scheduled to be held (date and time) at (location).

(e)  For the purposes of computing the tax increase on a $100,000 home as required by the notice, the joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall consider the difference between the truth in taxation rate and the proposed increased rate.

2.  The joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall consider any motion to recommend the proposed tax rates to the full legislature by roll call vote.

F.  In addition to publishing the truth in taxation notice under subsection E, paragraph 1 of this section, the joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall issue a press release containing the truth in taxation notice.

G.  Notwithstanding any other law, the legislature shall not adopt a state budget that provides for qualifying tax rates pursuant to section 15‑971 that exceed the truth in taxation rates computed pursuant to subsection A of this section unless the rates are adopted by a concurrent resolution approved by an affirmative roll call vote of two‑thirds of the members of each house of the legislature before the legislature enacts the general appropriations bill.  If the resolution is not approved by two‑thirds of the members of each house of the legislature, the rates for the following fiscal year shall be the truth in taxation rates determined pursuant to subsection C of this section and shall be transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the county boards of supervisors.

H.  Notwithstanding subsection C of this section and if approved by the qualified electors voting at a statewide general election, the legislature shall not set a qualifying tax rate that exceeds $2.1265 for a common or high school district or $4.253 for a unified school district. The legislature shall not set a county equalization assistance for education rate that exceeds $0.5123.

I.  Pursuant to subsection C of this section, the qualifying tax rate in tax year 2023 for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15‑447 is $1.6549 and for a unified school district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15‑447 is $3.3098. END\_STATUTE