

INTRODUCTION

Overview - A.R.S. 41-1275 establishes the Strategic Program Area Review (SPAR) process, which is intended to review issues that often involve multiple agencies and evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and necessity of selected program areas. This process was established by Laws 1999, Chapter 148 and replaced the Program Authorization Review (PAR) process established by Laws 1995, Chapter 283. The four program areas and associated agencies are identified in *Table 1*.

Table 1	
Program Subject to SPAR	
<u>Program Area</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
Homeland Security	Office of Homeland Security Department of Health Services
Ports of Entry	Arizona Department of Transportation Arizona Department of Agriculture Department of Public Safety
University Financial Assistance	Arizona Board of Regents Northern Arizona University University of Arizona Arizona State University
Workforce Development	Department of Economic Security Department of Commerce Community Colleges Arizona Department of Education Governor’s Council on Workforce Policy

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) Staff and the Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) have jointly published a composite report. This composite report includes all of JLBC/OSPB’s SPAR reports for the four programs. The SPAR reports are also available on the websites for JLBC Staff (<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc.htm>) and OSPB (<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/>). Following is a more complete description of the SPAR process and attached reports.

SPAR Process - The SPAR process consists of three phases:

- Agency Authored Self-Assessment - The first phase requires each of the agencies responsible for a program subject to SPAR to conduct a Self-Assessment of its program. This assessment answers specific questions relating to background information, program performance and program management. Pursuant to statute, agency Self-Assessments were due to OSPB and JLBC Staff by June 1. In addition to answering standard questions in the Self-Assessment, most participating agencies

were asked additional questions specific to their SPAR subject. These questions were answered after June 1.

- **JLBC/OSPB Review and Report** - In the second phase of the SPAR process, JLBC Staff and OSPB reviewed the agency materials and gathered additional information, as appropriate, to validate the agency’s submission. We then prepared reports of our findings and recommendations for each of the program areas. Each budget office took the lead writing the “Program Background” sections of 2 SPARs; both offices agreed to the contents of those sections. The “Findings and Recommendations” sections were written separately by each office. Each agency was given a chance to review and comment on the reports during mid-November and December. The final agency responses are included in the published reports. As required by law, the JLBC Staff and OSPB are publishing the final joint SPAR reports by January 1, 2006.
- **Legislative Review** - In the third phase, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate assign SPARs to Appropriations Committees. They may also assign the SPARs to a standing committee. These committees are to hold at least one public hearing for the purpose of receiving public input and recommending whether to retain, eliminate, or modify funding and related statutory references for the strategic program areas under review. If standing committees hold the public hearing, their recommendations shall be made to the Appropriations Committees.

SPAR Composite Report Organization - The SPAR report includes, after this Introduction, each JLBC/OSPB SPAR report and an Agency Response section.

1. **JLBC/OSPB SPAR Report** (on lavender paper). This narrative includes the background section and each of the two offices’ findings and recommendations on the program based upon the agency Self-Assessment. The “Program Background” section includes a brief description of the program along with a program funding summary. The “Findings and Recommendations” sections provide each office’s findings regarding the program area and/or recommendations for the area. These findings appear in bold.
2. **Agency Response to the JLBC/OSPB SPAR Report** (on white paper). Each agency involved in the SPAR process was invited to submit an agency response.

Further Information - Copies of the individual SPAR reports are available through the websites for JLBC Staff (<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc.htm>) and OSPB (<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/>). Copies of this report may also be obtained by contacting Stefan Shepherd at the JLBC Staff office (602-926-5491) or Monica Seymour at the OSPB office (602-542-5381). These two persons can respond to general questions about the SPAR process. For additional information about the specific program subject to SPAR, readers may want to contact the appropriate person from JLBC Staff or OSPB. These contacts are listed in *Table 2*.

<u>SPAR</u>	<u>JLBC Analyst</u>	<u>OSPB Analyst</u>
Homeland Security	John Malloy	Holly Baumann
Ports of Entry	Bob Hull	Marcel Benberou
University Financial Assistance	Shelli Carol	Bill Greeney
Workforce Development	Eric Jorgensen	Chris Hall