

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
First Regular Session
2013

CHAPTER 191
HOUSE BILL 2611

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-503, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-503, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-503. Superintendents, principals, head teachers and school
5 psychologists: term of employment: evaluation:
6 contract delivery: nonretention notice

7 A. The governing board may:

8 1. Employ a superintendent or principal, or both. If the governing
9 board employs a superintendent, the governing board shall determine the
10 qualifications for the superintendent by action taken at a public meeting.
11 The governing board shall require a superintendent to have a valid
12 fingerprint clearance card that is issued pursuant to title 41, chapter 12,
13 article 3.1.

14 2. Appoint a head teacher.

15 3. Jointly with another governing board employ a superintendent or a
16 principal, or both. If the governing board jointly employs a superintendent,
17 the governing boards shall jointly determine the qualifications for the
18 superintendent by action taken at a public meeting. The governing boards
19 shall require a superintendent to have a valid fingerprint clearance card
20 that is issued pursuant to title 41, chapter 12, article 3.1.

21 B. The term of employment of superintendents may be for any period not
22 exceeding three years, except that if the superintendent's contract with the
23 school district is for multiple years pursuant to this subsection the school
24 district shall not offer to extend or renegotiate the contract until ~~May of~~
25 ~~the year preceding the final year~~ NO EARLIER THAN FIFTEEN MONTHS BEFORE THE
26 EXPIRATION of the contract. The term of employment of principals may be for
27 any period not exceeding three years pursuant to section 15-341, subsection
28 A, paragraph 42, except that if the principal's contract with the school
29 district is for multiple years the school district shall not offer to extend
30 or negotiate the contract until May of the year preceding the final year of
31 the contract. The school district governing board or the governing body of
32 the charter school shall communicate the superintendent's or principal's
33 duties with respect to the classroom site fund established by section 15-977.

34 C. The governing board shall establish systems for the evaluation of
35 the performance of principals that meet the requirements prescribed in
36 section 15-203, subsection A, paragraph 38 and other school administrators
37 and certificated school psychologists in the school district. In the
38 development and adoption of these performance evaluation systems, the
39 governing board shall avail itself of the advice of its administrators and
40 certificated school psychologists. Each evaluation shall include
41 recommendations as to areas of improvement in the performance of the
42 certificated school psychologist if the performance of the certificated
43 school psychologist warrants improvement. After transmittal of an
44 assessment, a board designee shall confer with the certificated school
45 psychologist to make specific recommendations as to areas of improvement in
46 the certificated school psychologist's performance. The board designee shall

1 provide assistance and opportunities for the certificated school psychologist
2 to improve his performance and shall follow up with the certificated school
3 psychologist after a reasonable period of time for the purpose of
4 ascertaining that the certificated school psychologist is demonstrating
5 adequate performance. The evaluation process for certificated school
6 psychologists shall include appeal procedures for certificated school
7 psychologists who disagree with the evaluation of their performance, if the
8 evaluation is for use as criteria for establishing compensation or dismissal.

9 D. On or before May 15 each year, the governing board shall offer a
10 contract for the next school year to each certified administrator and
11 certificated school psychologist who is in the last year of his contract
12 unless, on or before April 15, the governing board, a member of the board
13 acting on behalf of the board or the superintendent of the school district
14 gives notice to the administrator or certificated school psychologist of the
15 board's intention not to offer a new contract. If the governing board has
16 called for an override election for the third Tuesday in May as provided in
17 section 15-481, the governing board shall offer a contract for the next
18 school year to each certified administrator or certificated school
19 psychologist who is in the last year of his contract on or before June 15
20 unless, no later than five days after the override election excluding
21 Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays, the governing board, a member of the
22 board acting on behalf of the board or the superintendent of the school
23 district gives notice to the administrator or the certificated school
24 psychologist of the board's intention not to offer a new contract. The
25 administrator's or the certificated school psychologist's acceptance of the
26 contract shall be indicated within thirty days from the date of the written
27 contract or the offer is revoked. The administrator or certificated school
28 psychologist accepts the contract by signing the contract and returning it to
29 the governing board or by making a written instrument that accepts the terms
30 of the contract and delivering the written instrument to the governing board.

31 E. Notice of the board's intention not to reemploy the administrator
32 or certificated school psychologist shall be made by delivering the notice
33 personally to the administrator or the certificated school psychologist or by
34 sending the notice by certified mail, postmarked on or before the applicable
35 deadline prescribed in subsection D of this section, and directed to the
36 administrator or the certificated school psychologist at his place of
37 residence as recorded in the school district records.

38 F. The school district governing board shall make available the
39 evaluation and performance classification pursuant to section 15-203,
40 subsection A, paragraph 38 of each principal in the school district to school
41 districts and charter schools that are inquiring about the performance of the
42 principal for hiring purposes.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 7, 2013.

H.B. 2611

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 8, 2013.