



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1393

ASDB; employment contracts

Purpose

Allows the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) Board of Directors (Board) to appoint a superintendent for each school and makes other ASDB personnel changes.

Background

The ASDB was established in 1912 to provide education to students with sensory impairments such as deafness or blindness. The ASDB is governed by a Board consisting of the Governor, as an ex officio nonvoting member, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, one member from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH), one member from the Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI) and six appointive members. The Board members from the ACDHH and GCBVI and the remaining six members are appointed by the Governor to three year terms and are considered for membership based upon their knowledge and experience with sensory impaired education. Board members are not eligible for compensation (A.R.S. § 15-1321).

The ASDB has a superintendent of schools who serves as the executive officer and is appointed by the Board. The superintendent is issued a one, two or three year contract by the Board and is eligible for certain reimbursement. In addition to appointing the superintendent, the Board is required to designate ASDB management and supervisory positions. The superintendent, as well as all management and supervisory staff, are required to be competent educators of the deaf or the blind and must be acquainted with school management and class instruction of the deaf or the blind. A person is eligible to be the superintendent or hold a management or supervisory staff position if that person has had actual experience as a teacher of the deaf or blind (A.R.S § 15-1325).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires the Board to appoint a superintendent of each school and allows the same person to be the superintendent of more than one school.
2. Requires the Board to designate the responsibilities, in addition to the management structure and supervisory positions, for the ASDB.

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3. Eliminates the requirements that the ASDB superintendent, management and supervisory staff, less persons contracted for personnel service and business finance service, must be:
 - a) competent educators of the deaf, blind or multiply disabled and sensory impaired; and
 - b) acquainted in school management and class instruction of the deaf, blind or multiply disabled and sensory impaired.
4. Removes language specifying that a person who has actual experience as a teacher of the deaf, blind or multiply disabled and sensory impaired is eligible to:
 - a) be the ASDB superintendent; or
 - b) hold a position on the management or supervisory staff of the ASDB.
5. Removes the requirement that the superintendent must be the executive officer of the ASDB.
6. Requires the Board to give written notice of contract expiration or retention regarding the Superintendent, or a person contracted by the superintendent, before the contract expires, rather than on the current set dates.
7. Makes conforming changes.
8. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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