



NEWS RELEASE

Office of Representative Sonny Borrelli

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Rep. Sonny Borrelli, R-Lake Havasu (Dist. 5)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING PRISONERS WITH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS FROM WALKING FREE

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Feb. 13, 2014) – Rep. Sonny Borrelli is sponsoring legislation that gives county detention officers throughout the state the authority to arrest a prisoner who is about to be released, if there are outstanding arrest warrants for the prisoner.

“This bill cuts the bureaucratic red tape that is allowing prisoners with outstanding warrants to walk free,” Borrelli said. “It streamlines the process so a detention officer can detain a prisoner for arrest if necessary.”

Shortly before a prisoner is scheduled to be released, a search for arrest warrants in other counties and states is performed. Currently only a sworn officer can arrest a prisoner if the detention officer discovers an outstanding arrest warrant. In many rural counties, however, sworn officers are not as readily available. And unfortunately, when release time arrives if an officer is not available, the person is allowed to walk free.

HB 2002, sponsored by Rep. Borrelli, grants detention officers the power to arrest a prisoner on an outstanding arrest warrant if the person is already in the custody of a jail facility. It also expands to detention officers acting in their official capacity a defense to the crime of unlawful imprisonment. Peace officers are already exempt from the punishment of unlawful imprisonment if they are detaining a person. Detention officers would also not be held responsible for unlawful imprisonment if they are arresting a person as outlined in HB 2002.

HB 2002 was passed unanimously by the Public Safety, Military and Regulatory Affairs committee, and passed on Third Read in the House of Representatives 57 – 2. The bill now awaits a hearing in the Senate.

The legislation is supported by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, and the Arizona Association Of Counties.

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