



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Katie Hobbs  
Secretary of State  
1700 W. Washington, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2810 (civil asset forfeiture; conviction; procedures)

Dear Secretary Hobbs:

Today, I signed H.B. 2810.

As Governor, I have the responsibility to ensure that the state's laws are faithfully executed. That includes respecting individuals' rights as well as enforcing laws that keep our state safe. It is in this vein that today I have signed House Bill 2810.

Arizona law provides for a civil process where the proceeds of criminal syndicates are forfeited to the state and local governments for use by law enforcement and non-profit organizations to help crime victims and continue the fight against organized crime.

Currently, this civil process does not require a criminal conviction before a person's property is forfeited to the state and there are many stories of property being taken forfeited, and sometimes sold without the person ever being subject to criminal prosecution.

Arizona's Constitution provides broad protections for personal rights and property — broader so than the United States Constitution. As such, when reviewing legislation, I have a constitutional responsibility to provide a balance between those rights and ensuring that law enforcement has the tools necessary to protect our state.

H.B. 2810 provides this balance. And it ensures that law enforcement has the ability to seize property pending forfeiture or if the property is evidence of a crime. It ensures that property being taken is truly connected to criminal activity while innocent persons have the ability to get their property back.

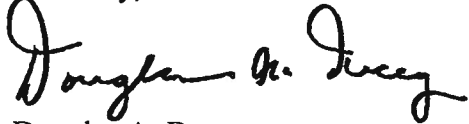
I have confidence and trust in our law enforcement professionals across the state that they can implement this law and keep our state safe from criminals that attempt to use our state to profit from their crimes. Arizonans trust and rely on law enforcement to conduct thorough practices and

develop strong cases against dangerous criminal organizations and continue arresting, charging, and convicting criminals acting within our state.

Arizona can stand strong in combating organized crime and criminal activity, without sacrificing the rights guaranteed under our Constitution for law abiding citizens.

I appreciate Representative Travis Grantham's leadership in getting this bill passed and I am proud to sign it.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann  
The Honorable Rusty Bowers  
The Honorable Travis Grantham