

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting
January 30, 2026
10:00 A.M., HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2026011087>

Members Present:

Senator Carine Werner, Co-Chair
Senator Eva Diaz
Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
Senator Kevin Payne
Senator Thomas "T.J." Shope
Senator Priya Sundareshan

Representative Selina Bliss, Co-Chair
Representative Ralph Heap
Representative Patricia Contreras
Representative Alma Hernandez
Representative Nick Kupper
Representative Sarah Liguori
Representative Chris Lopez
Representative Elda Luna-Nájera
Representative Beverly Pingerelli
Representative Jeff Weninger

Members Excused:

Senator Hildy Angius

Representative Matt Gress
Representative Christopher Mathis

Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Health and Human Services Research Analyst
Samuel Rosenberg, Senate Health and Human Services Assistant Research Analyst
Makenna Schouten, Senate Health and Human Services Research Intern
Ahjahna Graham, House Health and Human Services Research Analyst
Logan Kilbey, House Health and Human Services Research Intern

Co-Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and attendance was taken.

Senator Werner offered opening comments.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Katie Grzybowski, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Pharmacy, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment A).

Response by the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy

Kam Gandhi, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Pharmacy, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Pharmacy" (Attachment B). Mr. Gandhi answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

Frank Thorwald, Member (Public), Arizona State Board of Pharmacy, testified in support of the continuation of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Bliss moved that the Joint House and Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy for 6 years, until July 1, 2032, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 13-0-6 (Attachment 1).

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Jeff Gove, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Nursing, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment C).

Response by the Arizona State Board of Nursing

Joey Ridenour, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Nursing, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Board of Nursing: Public Protection in a Period of Exponential Growth, January 2026" (Attachment D). Ms. Ridenour answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

Kathryn Busby, Arizona Nurses Association, testified as neutral on the continuation of the Arizona State Board of Nursing.

Teresa Sanzio, representing self, testified as neutral on the continuation of the Arizona State Board of Nursing and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Bliss moved that the Joint House and Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona State Board of Nursing for 4 years, until July 1, 2030, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 14-0-5 (Attachment 2).

Senator Sundareshan and Representative Hernandez explained their votes.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Katie Grzybowski, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment E). Ms. Grzybowski answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners

Shaina Ganatra, Executive Director, Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Bliss moved that the Joint House and Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners for 4 years, until July 1, 2030, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 16-0-3 (Attachment 3).

Senator Sundareshan explained her vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Katie Grzybowski, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment F). Ms. Grzybowski answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director, Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Performance Audit and Sunset Review, January 2026" (Attachment G). Ms. Rivera answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Bliss moved that the Joint House and Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants for 2 years, until July 1, 2028, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 12-4-3 (Attachment 4).

Senators Payne, Sundareshan, Gonzales and Representatives Contreras, Hernandez, Luna-Nájera and Bliss explained their votes.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Senator Werner offered comments.

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Timmy Sutton and Ashley Bjurstrom, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Economic Security, Performance Audits and Sunset Review" (Attachment H). Mr. Sutton and Ms. Bjurstrom answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Department of Economic Security

Michael Wisehart, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Committee of Reference, January 30, 2026" (Attachment I).

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Bliss moved that the Joint House and Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference make a recommendation to continue the Arizona Department of Economic Security for 4 years, until July 1, 2030, and that statutory changes be made to improve the board's ability to efficiently and accurately perform their duties as prescribed by law. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 16-0-3 (Attachment 5).

Senator Werner explained her vote.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their positions on the agenda items (Attachment J).

Attached are the forms noting the individuals who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment K).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Christophersen
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)