

House Engrossed Senate Bill
agency decisions; administrative reviews

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

CHAPTER 316
SENATE BILL 1459

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 12-910, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 12-910, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 12-910. Scope of review

5 A. An action to review a final administrative decision shall be
6 heard and determined with convenient speed. If requested by a party to an
7 action within thirty days after filing a notice of appeal, the court shall
8 hold an evidentiary hearing, including testimony and argument, to the
9 extent necessary to make the determination required by subsection E of
10 this section. The court may hear testimony from witnesses who testified
11 at the administrative hearing and witnesses who were not called to testify
12 at the administrative hearing.

13 B. Relevant and admissible exhibits and testimony that were not
14 offered during the administrative hearing shall be admitted, and
15 objections that a party failed to make to evidence offered at the
16 administrative hearing shall be considered, unless either of the following
17 is true:

18 1. The exhibit, testimony or objection was withheld for purposes of
19 delay, harassment or other improper purpose.

20 2. Allowing admission of the exhibit or testimony or consideration
21 of the objection would cause substantial prejudice to another party.

22 C. For review of final administrative decisions of agencies that
23 are exempt from sections 41-1092.03, ~~through~~ 41-1092.04, 41-1092.05,
24 41-1092.06, 41-1092.07, 41-1092.08, 41-1092.09, 41-1092.10, AND
25 41-1092.11, pursuant to section 41-1092.02, the trial shall be de novo if
26 trial de novo is demanded in the notice of appeal or motion of an appellee
27 other than the agency and if a hearing was not held by the agency or the
28 proceedings before the agency were not stenographically reported or
29 mechanically recorded so that a transcript might be made. On demand of
30 any party, if a trial de novo is available under this section, it may be
31 with a jury, except that a trial of an administrative decision under
32 section 25-522 shall be to the court.

33 D. The record in the superior court shall consist of the record of
34 the administrative proceeding, and the record of any evidentiary hearing,
35 or the record of the trial de novo.

36 E. After reviewing the administrative record and supplementing
37 evidence presented at the evidentiary hearing, the court may affirm,
38 reverse, modify or vacate and remand the agency action. The court shall
39 affirm the agency action unless the court concludes that the agency's
40 action is contrary to law, is not supported by substantial evidence, is
41 arbitrary and capricious or is an abuse of discretion. In a proceeding
42 brought by or against the regulated party, the court shall decide all
43 questions of law, including the interpretation of a constitutional or
44 statutory provision or a rule adopted by an agency, without deference to
45 any previous determination that may have been made on the question by the

1 agency. Notwithstanding any other law, this subsection applies in any
2 action for judicial review of any agency action that is authorized by law.

3 F. Notwithstanding subsection E of this section, if the action
4 arises out of title 20, chapter 15, article 2, the court shall affirm the
5 agency action unless after reviewing the administrative record and
6 supplementing evidence presented at the evidentiary hearing the court
7 concludes that the action is not supported by substantial evidence, is
8 contrary to law, is arbitrary and capricious or is an abuse of discretion.

9 G. This section does not apply to any agency action ~~by an agency~~
10 ~~that is created~~ pursuant to ~~article XV, Constitution of Arizona~~ TITLE 40,
11 CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 5 OR 6.2.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 4, 2021.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 4, 2021.