



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1617

school districts; property; peaceful protesting

Purpose

Prohibits a school district from ejecting or taking adverse action against persons engaging in peaceful protesting after school hours or requiring an authorization to engage in peaceful protesting after school hours.

Background

Statute requires a governing board to conduct regular meetings at least once a month during the regular school year at the most convenient public facility in the school district. If there is no public facility available in the district, the governing board may meet at a public facility convenient to all members, regardless of where the facility is located ([A.R.S. § 15-321](#)).

The governing board of every education institution must adopt rules for maintaining public order on property under its jurisdiction used for educational purposes and provide for enforcement of the rules. The rules govern the conduct of students, faculty and other staff and all members of the public while on the property. Penalties for violations must be clearly set forth and enforced and must include provisions for the ejection of a violator from the property ([A.R.S. § 13-2911](#)).

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

Provisions

1. Prohibits a school district from:
  - a) ejecting persons engaging in peaceful protesting after school hours from school property or from the vicinity of any other location where a governing board or school-related meeting is taking place; or
  - b) taking other adverse action against persons engaging in peaceful protesting after school hours.
2. Prohibits a school district from requiring persons to apply, request a permit or secure any form of authorization to engage in peaceful protesting:
  - a) on school property after school hours; or
  - b) in the vicinity of any other location where a governing board or school-related meeting is taking place after school hours.
3. Specifies that the act of peaceful protesting after school hours at the following locations does not constitute a violation of the prohibition on interfering with or disrupting an educational institution:
  - a) on school property; or
  - b) in the vicinity of a location where a governing board or school-related meeting is taking place.

FACT SHEET

S.B. 1617

Page 2

4. Defines *peaceful protesting* as protesting characterized by:
  - a) not posing an obvious threat to persons;
  - b) not damaging property; and
  - c) not interfering with or disrupting activities on school property or in the vicinity of a location where a governing board meeting or other school-related meeting is taking place.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 10, 2022

LB/slp