

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature First Regular Session

HCR 2050: school districts; expenditure limit; authorization Sponsor: Representative Gress, LD 4 Committee on Appropriations

Overview

Allows school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation (AEL) in FY 2024.

<u>History</u>

In 1980, Arizona voters approved <u>Proposition 109</u>, which amended the state Constitution by creating the AEL for all school districts. The Arizona Constitution and statute detail the formula to calculate the AEL and procedures if the AEL is exceeded.

Prior to May 1, the Economic Estimates Commission (EEC) must determine the AEL for the following year. The AEL is calculated by adjusting FY 1980 local revenue expenditures for all school districts to reflect changes in student population and the cost of living. This amount is then multiplied by 10%. The state Constitution details the monies, revenues, funds, property and receipts that comprise *local revenues* (Ariz. Const. art. 9, sec. 21).

By November 1, the State Board of Education (SBE) must determine the current year aggregate expenditures of local revenues for all school districts. If this amount exceeds the AEL, two options may occur. The Legislature may authorize, by March 1, the expenditures of local revenues in excess of the AEL upon two-thirds approval in both the House of Representatives and Senate. If the Legislature does not authorize the expenditures of local revenues in excess of the AEL, SBE must inform each school district, by March 5, of the amount by which the school district must reduce its expenditures of local revenues. Then, by April 1, each school district governing board must adopt a revised current year budget that is reduced by the amount determined by SBE (A.R.S. § 15-911).

The Legislature authorized school districts to spend \$1,385,809,642 of local revenues in excess of the AEL in FY 2023 (<u>HCR 2001</u>).

Provisions

1. Authorizes school districts to spend local revenues in excess of the AEL in FY 2024, subject to approval by at least two-thirds of the membership of the House of Representatives and Senate.