

House Engrossed

natural resource conservation board; fund

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

CHAPTER 43

HOUSE BILL 2117

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 28-2413, 41-6011 AND 41-6013, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO THE STATE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION BOARD.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 28-2413, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 28-2413. Environmental special plates

5 A. The department shall issue environmental special plates. The
6 environmental special plates shall have the same basic color and design as
7 the environmental license plates issued on or before December 31, 1992,
8 except that the department may make minor alterations of environmental
9 special plates to make the plates more reflective and readable during the
10 daylight and nighttime hours.

11 B. Of the \$25 fee required by section 28-2402 for original
12 environmental special plates and for renewal of environmental special
13 plates, \$8 is a special plate administration fee and \$17 is an
14 environmental plate annual donation.

15 C. The department shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and
16 35-147, all special plate administration fees in the state highway fund
17 established by section 28-6991 and shall deposit the environmental plate
18 annual donations in the environmental special plate fund established by
19 section 41-6013 for disbursement by the state ~~land department~~ NATURAL
20 RESOURCE CONSERVATION BOARD for environmental education programs.

21 Sec. 2. Section 41-6011, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
22 read:

23 41-6011. State natural resource conservation board;
24 membership; powers and duties

25 A. The state natural resource conservation board is established
26 consisting of the following members who are residents of this state:

27 1. Eight members who are from different geographic natural resource
28 areas as defined by ~~a statewide organization that represents all natural~~
29 ~~resource conservation districts in this~~ THE state NATURAL RESOURCE
30 CONSERVATION BOARD. GEOGRAPHIC NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS AS DEFINED BY THE
31 BOARD SHALL BE CONTIGUOUS. THE BOARD SHALL PRIORITIZE MAJOR LAND
32 RESOURCES, TYPES OF CROPS GROWN AND OTHER SHARED LAND FEATURES WHEN
33 DEFINING THE GEOGRAPHIC NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS. Four members shall be
34 appointed by the governor, two members shall be appointed by the president
35 of the senate and two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the
36 house of representatives. The members appointed pursuant to this
37 paragraph shall meet the following criteria:

38 (a) At least six of the members must be elected supervisors for a
39 natural resource conservation district.

40 (b) Not more than two members may be appointed supervisors from a
41 soil and water conservation district.

42 (c) At least one member shall be a member of the executive board of
43 a statewide organization that represents all natural resource conservation
44 districts in this state.

1 2. Three members who are appointed by the governor from any of the
2 following and who serve at the pleasure of the governor:

3 (a) The state land commissioner or state land commissioner's
4 designee.

5 (b) The director of the Arizona department of agriculture or the
6 director's designee.

7 (c) The state forester or the state forester's designee.

8 (d) The director of the Arizona game and fish department or the
9 director's designee.

10 B. The board shall elect a chairperson from among its members. The
11 chairperson must be a member who represents a natural resource
12 conservation district or soil and water conservation district. EACH
13 MEMBER REPRESENTING A GEOGRAPHIC NATURAL RESOURCE AREA MAY HOLD OFFICE
14 UNTIL THE MEMBER'S SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

15 C. The initial members of the board who are appointed pursuant to
16 subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section shall assign themselves by lot
17 to terms of one, two and three years in office. All subsequent members
18 serve three-year terms. The chairperson of the board shall notify the
19 governor's office of these terms.

20 D. If a member's term as a supervisor expires while serving on the
21 board, that member may not serve out the member's term as a board member.
22 A replacement shall be appointed from the same geographic NATURAL resource
23 area to fulfill the remainder of that member's term.

24 E. Board members shall be reimbursed for expenses as prescribed by
25 title 38, chapter 4, article 2 while attending board meetings.

26 F. The board may appoint or contract for an administrative officer,
27 a secretary and such other assistants as may be required, assign their
28 duties, define their powers and determine the amount of bond required of
29 any assistant entrusted with monies or property. The compensation of all
30 ~~such~~ THE assistants shall be determined pursuant to section 38-611.

31 G. The board shall adopt a seal, which shall be judicially noticed,
32 and shall hold public hearings, keep records of all proceedings and annual
33 records of district operations, adopt orders and rules and perform other
34 acts as are necessary to carry out this chapter.

35 H. The board shall:

36 1. Offer appropriate assistance to the supervisors of districts in
37 carrying out their powers and programs.

38 2. Keep the supervisors of each district informed of the activities
39 and experiences of other districts and of relevant information from other
40 states, and facilitate cooperation and interchange of advice, experience
41 and program opportunities between districts.

42 3. Coordinate the programs of the several districts insofar as
43 possible by advice and consultation.

1 4. Require the supervisors of each district to file with the board
2 annually any audits and the records of the operations of the district for
3 the preceding year in the form and detail as the board prescribes.

4 5. Secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States, its
5 agencies and agencies of this state, in the work of districts as local
6 units of state government with special expertise concerning land, soil,
7 water and natural resources management within the boundaries of the
8 district, as the board deems for the best interest of ~~the~~ THIS state.

9 6. Disseminate information throughout ~~the~~ THIS state concerning the
10 activities and program of districts.

11 7. Meet at least quarterly to receive updates from the board's
12 administrative officer regarding any relevant issue or matter necessary to
13 carry out this chapter, provide guidance to the administrative officer and
14 vote on any matters requiring a decision by the board.

15 8. Assist a district when the district is cooperating or
16 coordinating with a federal agency.

17 9. Assist districts with developing conservation action or
18 district-wide plans.

19 10. Adopt administrative rules that the board deems necessary and
20 proper to carry out this chapter.

21 I. The board may remove a district supervisor from office if the
22 board determines, after reasonable notice and an impartial hearing, that
23 the supervisor is guilty of misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance in
24 office. For the purposes of this subsection, "nonfeasance" includes the
25 failure to attend three consecutive meetings of district supervisors
26 without reasonable excuse.

27 J. The board, pursuant to chapter 4, article 4 of this title, may
28 contract for or employ professional and administrative services. Contracts
29 for professional services are exempt from chapter 23 of this title.

30 Sec. 3. Section 41-6013, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
31 read:

32 41-6013. Environmental special plate fund; distribution

33 A. The environmental special plate fund is established and is
34 administered by the board consisting of monies received pursuant to
35 section 28-2413.

36 B. Subject to legislative appropriation, the board shall distribute
37 ~~\$5,000~~ NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 annually to each natural resource
38 conservation district with an established education center for the purpose
39 of developing and implementing an environmental education program that is
40 conducted in a balanced manner, that is based on current scientific
41 information and that includes a discussion of economic and social
42 implications.

43 C. The fund established in this section is exempt from the
44 provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. On
45 notice from the board, the state treasurer shall invest and divest monies

1 in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies earned from
2 investment shall be credited to the fund.

3 D. The appropriated monies shall only be used for the designated
4 purposes specified in statute.

5 Sec. 4. Retention of members

6 Notwithstanding section 41-6011, Arizona Revised Statutes, as
7 amended by this act, all persons serving as members of the state natural
8 resource conservation board on the effective date of this act may continue
9 to serve until the expiration of their normal terms. All subsequent
10 appointments shall be as prescribed by statute.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 13, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 13, 2026.