

House Engrossed

county seal; authority; sheriff's posse

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

# **CHAPTER 53**

## **HOUSE BILL 2270**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 11-251.17 AND 11-441, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO COUNTY AUTHORITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 11-251.17, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 11-251.17. Use of county seal, logo or insignia restricted;  
5 county offices; cease and desist order;  
6 violation; classification; exception

7 A. A person may use, display or otherwise employ any facsimile,  
8 copy, likeness, imitation or other resemblance of the county seal, LOGO OR  
9 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY, WHETHER  
10 IDENTICAL OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR, THAT IMPLIES AFFILIATION WITH THE  
11 COUNTY only after obtaining the approval of the board of supervisors of  
12 that county. The board of supervisors may grant a certificate of approval  
13 on application by any person showing good cause for the use of the county  
14 seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE  
15 COUNTY for a proper purpose. No person other than a county department may  
16 use the county seal ~~for the purpose of advertising or promoting~~, LOGO OR  
17 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY TO  
18 ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE the sale of any article of merchandise within this  
19 state or for promoting any other commercial purpose. The board of  
20 supervisors may adopt rules for the use of the county seal, LOGO OR  
21 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY or any  
22 facsimile, copy, likeness, imitation or other resemblance of the county  
23 seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE  
24 COUNTY, including rules for the use of the county seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA  
25 OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY for official county  
26 business.

27 B. A PERSON MAY USE, DISPLAY OR OTHERWISE EMPLOY ANY FACSIMILE,  
28 COPY, LIKENESS, IMITATION OR OTHER RESEMBLANCE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR  
29 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF A COUNTY OFFICE, WHETHER IDENTICAL  
30 OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR, THAT IMPLIES AFFILIATION WITH THAT COUNTY OFFICE  
31 ONLY AFTER OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IN CONTROL OF  
32 THAT COUNTY OFFICE. THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IN CONTROL OF THE APPROPRIATE  
33 COUNTY OFFICE MAY GRANT A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL ON APPLICATION BY ANY  
34 PERSON SHOWING GOOD CAUSE FOR USING THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL  
35 OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THAT COUNTY OFFICE FOR A PROPER PURPOSE.  
36 A PERSON OTHER THAN A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR  
37 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF A COUNTY ELECTED OFFICE TO  
38 ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE THE SALE OF ANY ARTICLE OF MERCHANDISE WITHIN THIS  
39 STATE OR FOR PROMOTING ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL PURPOSE. THE BOARD OF  
40 SUPERVISORS MAY ACT TO ADOPT RULES FOR THE USE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR  
41 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER FOR ANY COUNTY OFFICE OR ANY  
42 FACSIMILE, COPY, LIKENESS, IMITATION OR OTHER RESEMBLANCE OF THE LOGO,  
43 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF ANY COUNTY OFFICE,  
44 INCLUDING RULES FOR THE USE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR

1 TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF ANY COUNTY OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL COUNTY BUSINESS. THE  
2 BOARD MAY ALSO ACT ON A REQUEST OF A COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR THE  
3 COUNTY OFFICE TO WHICH THE REQUESTING COUNTY OFFICIAL IS ELECTED.

4 ~~B.~~ C. If the county maintains a website, it shall display on its  
5 website the adopted seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA and the text of subsection A of  
6 this section.

7 ~~C.~~ D. The board of supervisors shall issue a cease and desist  
8 order to any person who is in violation of this section. If the person  
9 fails to comply with the cease and desist order, the person is guilty of a  
10 class 3 misdemeanor.

11 E. SUBSECTIONS A AND B OF THIS SECTION DO NOT LIMIT THE ABILITY OF  
12 A PERSON TO USE A COUNTY SEAL, LOGO OR INSIGNIA TO ENGAGE IN SATIRE OR  
13 PARODY.

14 Sec. 2. Section 11-441, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
15 read:

16 11-441. Powers and duties

17 A. The sheriff shall:

18 1. Preserve the peace.

19 2. Arrest and take before the nearest magistrate for examination  
20 all persons who attempt to commit or who have committed a public offense.

21 3. Prevent and suppress all affrays, breaches of the peace, riots  
22 and insurrections that may come to the knowledge of the sheriff.

23 4. Attend all courts, except justice and municipal courts, when an  
24 element of danger is anticipated and attendance is requested by the  
25 presiding judge and obey lawful orders and directions issued by the judge.

26 5. Take charge of and keep the county jail, including a county jail  
27 under the jurisdiction of a county jail district, and the prisoners in the  
28 county jail.

29 6. Endorse on all process and notices the year, month, day, hour  
30 and minute of reception and issue to the person delivering the process or  
31 notice, on payment of fees, a certificate showing the names of the  
32 parties, the title of the paper and the time of reception.

33 7. Serve process and notices in the manner prescribed by law and  
34 certify under the sheriff's hand on the process or notices the manner and  
35 time of service, or if the sheriff fails to make service, the reasons for  
36 failure, and return them without delay. When returnable to another  
37 county, the sheriff may enclose such process or notices in an envelope,  
38 addressed to the officer from whom received, and deposit the envelope  
39 postage prepaid in the post office. The return of the sheriff is prima  
40 facie evidence of the facts stated in the return.

1           8. Secure, as soon as possible, the home of a deceased person  
2 located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town if the  
3 sheriff is unable to determine or locate the heirs or executor of the  
4 deceased person.

5           B. The sheriff, in executing the duties prescribed in subsection A,  
6 paragraphs 1 through 4 of this section, may command the aid of as many  
7 inhabitants of the county as the sheriff deems necessary.

8           C. The sheriff shall conduct or coordinate within the county search  
9 or rescue operations involving the life or health of any person or may  
10 assist in such operations in another county at the request of that  
11 county's sheriff. The sheriff may request assistance from any persons or  
12 agencies in fulfilling duties under this subsection. A search and rescue  
13 unit established or recognized by a county may possess human remains as  
14 defined in section 36-301 for the purpose of training canines used for  
15 search and rescue work. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee shall keep  
16 an inventory of all human remains that are kept for the purpose of  
17 training search and rescue canines. The inventory must be updated when  
18 the search and rescue unit receives human remains or disposes of human  
19 remains that are no longer useful to the search and rescue unit. Each  
20 search and rescue unit that possesses human remains for the purpose of  
21 training search and rescue canines shall establish policies and standard  
22 operating procedures for access to, the inventory of and the possession  
23 and disposal of human remains kept for the purpose of training search and  
24 rescue canines.

25           D. The sheriff, in executing the duties prescribed in this section,  
26 may request the aid of volunteer posse and reserve organizations located  
27 in the county.

28           E. The sheriff may assist in executing the duties prescribed in  
29 this section in another county at the request of that county's sheriff.

30           F. The sheriff may require any prisoner who is on work release to  
31 reimburse the county for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with  
32 the release.

33           G. The board of supervisors of a county bordering Mexico may adopt  
34 an ordinance pursuant to chapter 2 of this title allowing the sheriff to  
35 prevent the entry from this state into Mexico at the border by any  
36 resident of this state who is under eighteen years of age if the minor is  
37 unaccompanied by a parent or guardian or does not have written consent for  
38 entry from the minor's parent or guardian. The authority of the sheriff  
39 is only to prevent entry and not to otherwise detain the minor. This  
40 subsection does not limit the authority of the sheriff pursuant to any  
41 other law. A county is not civilly or criminally liable for not adopting  
42 an ordinance pursuant to this subsection.

1           H. Notwithstanding section 13-3112, the sheriff may authorize  
2 members of the sheriff's volunteer posse who have received and passed  
3 firearms training that is approved by the Arizona peace officer standards  
4 and training board to carry a deadly weapon without a permit while on  
5 duty.

6           I. THE SHERIFF HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO NAME ANY POSSE THAT IS  
7 ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND TO DISSOLVE ANY POSSE THAT  
8 OPERATES UNDER THE SHERIFF'S JURISDICTION.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 13, 2026.

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