

Senate Engrossed House Bill

~~technical correction; assured water supply~~
(now: water improvement district; Willcox basin)

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HOUSE BILL 2274

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FORM A DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT IN THE WILLCOX GROUNDWATER BASIN.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Willcox groundwater basin; domestic water
3 improvement district; county board of
4 supervisors; election

5 A. On or before July 2, 2026, the Cochise county board of
6 supervisors may vote to place a question on the 2026 general election
7 ballot for the residents of Cochise county that reside within the Willcox
8 groundwater basin to vote on the question of whether to establish a
9 domestic water improvement district that would operate under title 48,
10 chapter 6, Arizona Revised Statutes.

11 B. Notwithstanding any other statute, the domestic water
12 improvement district prescribed in subsection A of this section:

13 1. May be established only in the portion of the Willcox
14 groundwater basin that is located within Cochise county.

15 2. May provide for the delivery of drinking water for domestic
16 uses, including by constructing and operating a standpipe, and may provide
17 for delivery of drinking water by water hauling to residents in the
18 Willcox groundwater basin that are located within the boundaries of the
19 domestic water improvement district.

20 3. May provide for the construction of active or passive stormwater
21 infrastructure in the Willcox groundwater basin for the purpose of
22 increasing groundwater recharge in the basin.

23 4. Would have the powers and duties as otherwise provided by law
24 for domestic water improvement districts.

25 C. The Cochise county board of supervisors shall establish the
26 proposed boundaries of the domestic water improvement district if the
27 board of supervisors votes to place the question on the ballot as
28 prescribed by subsection A of this section and shall make the boundaries
29 of the proposed domestic water improvement district publicly available
30 before the election.

31 D. All qualified electors who reside within the boundaries of the
32 proposed domestic water improvement district are eligible to vote on the
33 question prescribed by this section. The ballot shall state "Should the
34 domestic water improvement district be formed?" followed by the words
35 "Yes" and "No". If a majority of those qualified electors voting on the
36 question votes to approve the formation of the domestic water improvement
37 district, the domestic water improvement district is established. The
38 Cochise county board of supervisors is deemed to be the board of directors
39 of the domestic water improvement district.

40 E. Notwithstanding any other statute, the formation election
41 prescribed by this section is sufficient to establish the domestic water
42 improvement district and a petition and related procedures to establish
43 the domestic water improvement district are not required.

1 Sec. 2. Cochise county; water improvements program; vote

2 On or before July 2, 2026, the Cochise county board of supervisors
3 shall place on an open meeting agenda and may vote on the issue of whether
4 to establish a water improvements program as provided in section
5 11-254.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, and, if established, what the program
6 parameters should be.

7 (EMERGENCY NOT ENACTED)

8 Sec. 3. Emergency

9 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
10 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
11 law.