

REFERENCE TITLE: school safety; cell phone bans

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1227

Introduced by
Senators Bolick: Fernandez

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-154 AND 15-155, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
SCHOOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-154, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-154. School safety program; purpose; program proposals;
5 requirements; annual report; definitions

6 A. The school safety program is established within the department
7 of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning
8 environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school
9 resource officers, juvenile probation officers, school counselors and
10 school social workers on school campuses AND BY SUPPORTING THE COSTS OF
11 IMPLEMENTING CELL PHONE BANS IN SCHOOL CLASSROOMS. A school district or
12 charter school may apply to participate in the school safety program as
13 provided in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by
14 April 15 a program proposal to the department of education. A school
15 district or charter school that receives approval for a three-year program
16 under this subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its
17 approved program.

18 B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
19 school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers or
20 juvenile probation officers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

21 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
22 school or school district.

23 2. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a
24 plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as
25 a school safety prevention strategy.

26 3. A plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile
27 probation officers in the school, or both.

28 4. If the school district or charter school has already
29 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
30 compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

31 C. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
32 school for supporting the costs of placing school counselors or school
33 social workers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

34 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
35 school or school district.

36 2. A plan for implementing a school guidance and counseling program
37 that includes the following:

38 (a) A detailed description of the relationship between the school
39 counselor or the SCHOOL social worker, or both, and local community
40 resources.

41 (b) A plan for using school counselor and school social worker
42 services in the school, or both.

43 (c) A detailed description of the methods for evaluating the
44 effectiveness of the school guidance and counseling plan.

1 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school guidance and
2 counseling plan.

3 (e) Policies on notifying parents and other family members of
4 issues or concerns as identified in the school guidance and counseling
5 plan.

6 (f) A detailed description of the school's, school district's or
7 charter school's referral procedures to the appropriate community entities
8 and state agencies.

9 3. If the school district or charter school has already
10 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
11 compliance and implementation of the most recent approved program
12 proposal.

13 D. A PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
14 SCHOOL TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING A CELL PHONE BAN IN SCHOOL
15 CLASSROOMS SHALL CONTAIN:

16 1. A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL
17 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL.

18 2. A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING A CELL PHONE BAN IN THE CLASSROOMS OF
19 ONE OR MORE SCHOOL SITES, INCLUDING THE COST OF MATERIALS REQUIRED BY THE
20 PLAN.

21 3. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL HAS ALREADY
22 PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM, INFORMATION ON THE SUCCESS,
23 COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOST RECENT GRANT.

24 ~~D.~~ E. The department of education shall review and administer the
25 school resource officers and juvenile probation officers program proposals
26 in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement agencies and law-related
27 education providers awarded a contract pursuant to section 41-2534,
28 subject to review and approval by the state board of education. The
29 department of education shall use relevant crime statistics to assess the
30 needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts and
31 charter schools that submit program proposals ~~in order~~ to verify the
32 information contained in the program proposals. The department of
33 education shall contract to provide guidelines, curricula and support
34 resources for school resource officers and juvenile probation officers to
35 use in implementing a law-related education program.

36 ~~E.~~ F. The department of education shall review and administer the
37 school counselors and school social workers program proposals in
38 cooperation with school administrators, principals, teachers, parents and
39 community mental health professionals. The department of education shall
40 use relevant school-level academic, social and emotional statistics to
41 assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts
42 and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
43 information contained in the program proposals.

1 ~~F.~~ G. The department of education, subject to the review and
2 approval of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the
3 school districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program
4 requirements and whose program proposals have been approved by the state
5 board of education.

6 ~~G.~~ H. The department of education shall review program proposals
7 submitted by school districts and charter schools for participation in the
8 school safety program and shall select school sites that are eligible to
9 receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant to this section.
10 The department of education may prioritize program proposals for school
11 resource officer and juvenile probation officer grants to school districts
12 and charter schools that have agreements to share the cost of the school
13 resource officer or juvenile probation officer with a law enforcement
14 agency or the courts.

15 ~~H.~~ I. The department of education shall evaluate the effectiveness
16 of all the approved program proposals submitted pursuant to subsections B,
17 ~~and C~~ AND D of this section within the school safety program and report on
18 the activities of the program and the participants in the school safety
19 program to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
20 representatives and the governor on or before November 1 of each year and
21 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. The
22 evaluation and report shall include survey results from participating
23 schools and data from participating schools on the impact of participating
24 in the school safety program. The department shall establish data
25 guidelines for school safety program participants to follow in reporting
26 pursuant to this subsection.

27 ~~I.~~ J. The school safety program established by this section shall
28 include a school safety program guidance manual adopted by the department
29 of education that requires a dispute resolution process to be included in
30 the service agreement between a school district or charter school that
31 submitted a program proposal and received a school resource officer grant
32 from the school safety program and the law enforcement agency that
33 provides services to the school district or charter school.

34 ~~J.~~ K. Any appropriations that are made to the department of
35 education for the approved program proposals within the school safety
36 program are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to
37 lapsing of appropriations. All monies that are not used for an approved
38 program proposal within the school safety program during the fiscal year
39 for which the monies were appropriated revert to the department of
40 education for distribution to the program in the following fiscal year.

41 ~~K.~~ L. Monies received by a school district or charter school under
42 the SCHOOL SAFETY program shall be spent to implement the approved program
43 proposals.

44 ~~L.~~ M. The auditor general shall include the school safety program
45 as part of its ongoing sunset review of agencies and programs.

1 ~~M.~~ N. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Law-related education" means interactive education to equip
3 children and youth with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, school
4 safety and effective citizenship.

5 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to
6 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities
7 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding
8 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging
9 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive
10 citizens.

11 3. "School counselor" means a professional educator who holds a
12 valid school counselor certificate issued by the department of education.

13 4. "School guidance and counseling program" means a counseling
14 program that supports, promotes and enhances the academic, personal,
15 social, emotional and career development of all students.

16 5. "School resource officer" means a peace officer or a
17 full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the Arizona peace
18 officer standards and training board.

19 6. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a
20 valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of
21 education.

22 Sec. 2. Section 15-155, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
23 read:

24 15-155. School safety program; funding

25 A. The department of education shall cooperate with the county
26 school superintendent, the county sheriff and the local chief of police to
27 allow a law enforcement agency, with the consent of the school, to assign
28 a peace officer or a ~~full-authority~~ FULL-AUTHORITY RESERVE PEACE OFFICER
29 WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE Arizona peace officer standards and training board
30 ~~certified reserve peace officer~~ to participate in the school safety
31 program in each school in the county. The cost of the peace officer is a
32 state charge that is funded by the department of education, except for
33 agreements to share the cost of the school resource officer pursuant to
34 section 15-154, subsection ~~G~~ H.

35 B. In cooperation with the department of education and the county
36 school superintendent and with the consent of the school, the presiding
37 judge of the juvenile court may assign juvenile probation officers to
38 participate in the school safety program in each school in the
39 county. The cost of juvenile probation officers is a state charge that is
40 funded by the department of education, except for agreements to share the
41 cost of the juvenile probation officer pursuant to section 15-154,
42 subsection ~~G~~ H.