

REFERENCE TITLE: outdoor-based therapy programs; grants

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

SB 1418

Introduced by
Senators Kuby: Alston, Ortiz; Representatives Garcia, Sandoval

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 36, CHAPTER 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 2.2; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 36, chapter 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding article 2.2, to read:

4 ARTICLE 2.2. OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM

5 36-165. Definitions

6 IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 1. "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

8 2. "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT.

9 36-165.01. Outdoor Rx program; grants; fees; rules

10 A. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE MONIES, THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM IS
11 ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL,
12 ECOLOGICAL, AGRICULTURAL OR NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED
13 THERAPY PROGRAMS SERVING THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

14 B. THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD GRANTS TO PUBLIC AGENCIES AND CONTRACT
15 WITH ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGENCY OR PERSON TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
16 NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY PROGRAMS UNDER THE OUTDOOR
17 RX PROGRAM.

18 C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH LIMITS ON THE USE OF OUTDOOR RX
19 PROGRAM MONIES, WHICH SHALL BE DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION PACKAGE. THE
20 DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE APPLICANTS FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION TO MAKE A
21 MATCHING CONTRIBUTION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS ARTICLE. THE
22 DEPARTMENT MAY LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ANY ELEMENT OF
23 NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY PROGRAMS.

24 D. EACH GRANT RECIPIENT SHALL:

25 1. ENSURE THAT ALL NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY
26 PROGRAMS ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY TECHNICAL STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE
27 DEPARTMENT BY RULE.

28 2. SUBMIT ANY REPORTS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS DIRECTED IN THE
29 FUNDING CONTRACT.

30 3. AGREE TO AND CERTIFY COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND
31 STATE LAWS, RULES AND POLICIES.

32 4. MAINTAIN ACCURATE ACCOUNTING RECORDS ON THE EXPENDITURE OF
33 PROGRAM MONIES, PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH SUCH RECORDS CONSISTENT WITH
34 THE AGREEMENT OR ON REQUEST, AS APPLICABLE, AND ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO
35 AUDIT THE USE OF MONIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED AUDIT
36 PRACTICES AND STANDARDS.

37 E. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE ITS
38 PARTICIPATION IN ANY PROGRAM THAT FAILS TO PERFORM ACCORDING TO THE
39 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE AND THE RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS
40 ARTICLE.

41 F. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH AND ASSESS FEES TO GRANT RECIPIENTS
42 OR OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FOR OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM SERVICES.

43 G. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT ANY RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND
44 ADMINISTER THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM.

1 36-165.02. Advisory committee; membership; reimbursement;
2 duties

3 A. THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY
4 COMMITTEE TO ASSIST AND ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IN
5 DEVELOPING AND ADMINISTERING THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM. +THE ADVISORY
6 COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS WHO ARE APPOINTED AS
7 FOLLOWS:

8 1. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
9 OF THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD.

10 2. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

12 3. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES.

14 4. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
15 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

16 5. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHO IS APPOINTED
17 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD.

18 6. AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF OUTDOOR ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE APPOINTED
19 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD.

20 7. ANY OTHER MEMBERS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA STATE
21 PARKS BOARD DEEMS NECESSARY TO ENSURE A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS SECTION OF
22 PARTICIPANTS.

23 B. MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR
24 COMPENSATION BUT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES
25 PURSUANT TO TITLE 38, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2.

26 C. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP AN APPLICATION FORM THAT
27 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE
28 CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT UNDER THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM.

29 36-165.03. Grant eligibility; priorities; criteria; selection

30 A. THE DIRECTOR SHALL SET PRIORITIES AND DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR THE
31 AWARDING OF GRANTS TO OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL, ECOLOGICAL, AGRICULTURAL OR
32 NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY PROGRAMS THAT, AT A
33 MINIMUM:

34 1. USE VETERANS FOR AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT OF THE PROGRAM'S
35 IMPLEMENTATION OR ADMINISTRATION.

36 2. CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THROUGH OUTDOOR RECREATION.

37 3. WILL COMMIT MATCHING AND IN-KIND RESOURCES.

38 4. CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES.

39 5. MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO CAN BE SERVED,
40 PARTICULARLY PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE VETERANS OR WHO ARE RECOVERING FROM
41 SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL TRAUMA.

42 6. USE A STATE PARK OR OTHER NATURAL VENUE.

43 7. USE RESEARCH-BASED AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECOLOGICAL,
44 AGRICULTURAL OR NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY.

1 8. PROVIDE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO DIRECTLY
2 EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTAND NATURE AND THE NATURAL WORLD.

3 9. INCLUDE ONGOING PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
4 OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

5 B. THE DIRECTOR SHALL SELECT PROGRAMS THAT CONDUCT ANY OF THE
6 FOLLOWING ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE AWARDING OF GRANTS:

7 1. OUTDOOR RECREATION.

8 2. OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES.

9 3. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

10 4. NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED ACTIVITIES.

11 5. CONSERVATION.

12 6. ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES.

13 7. STEWARDSHIP OR RESTORATION.

14 C. PROGRAMS THAT CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE INELIGIBLE TO
15 RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM:

16 1. ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE PERCEIVED TO LOBBY OR ADVOCATE FOR
17 POLITICAL PURPOSES.

18 2. ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE OR
19 FEDERAL LAWS.

20 3. ORGANIZED YOUTH SPORTS, SUCH AS A COMMUNITY LEAGUE OR SCHOOL
21 TEAM.

22 D. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EVALUATE GRANT APPLICATIONS ON WHETHER THE
23 PROGRAM'S PROPOSALS:

24 1. PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

25 2. PROVIDE FOR INNOVATIVE WAYS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY AND USE
26 OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES.

27 3. SHOW CONSIDERATION FOR THE ECONOMICS OF INSTALLATION OR
28 IMPLEMENTATION TO PROVIDE THE GREATEST COST-TO-BENEFIT RATIO, SUCH AS WHEN
29 PRIVATE PARTIES CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM AMOUNT.

30 4. COMMIT MATCHING AND IN-KIND RESOURCES.

31 5. USE A STATE PARK OR OTHER NATURAL VENUE.

32 6. CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THROUGH OUTDOOR RECREATION AND
33 SOUND NUTRITION.

34 7. CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATEWIDE NETWORK OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
35 FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS.

36 8. ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

37 9. ENCOURAGE SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES.

38 10. MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO CAN BE SERVED.

39 11. PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOORS DIRECTLY AND
40 UNDERSTAND NATURE AND THE NATURAL WORLD.

41 12. INCLUDE ONGOING PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
42 OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

43 13. MAKE USE OF RESEARCH-BASED AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL,
44 ECOLOGICAL, AGRICULTURAL OR NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED THERAPY.

45 14. DEMONSTRATE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY.

1 E. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATIONS TO
2 DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY AND SHALL EVALUATE APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
3 THE PURPOSES, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, LIMITATIONS AND EVALUATION
4 CRITERIA PRESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH
5 AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 36-165.02. THE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION
7 ON AWARDING GRANT MONIES TO A NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED
8 THERAPY PROGRAM.

9 36-165.04. Outdoor Rx program fund

10 THE OUTDOOR RX PROGRAM FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE
11 APPROPRIATIONS AND GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
12 ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE
13 APPROPRIATION AND SHALL BE USED SOLELY TO ADMINISTER THE OUTDOOR RX
14 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. MONIES IN THE FUND MAY BE GRANTED TO
15 ANY STATE AGENCY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR
16 OUTDOOR-BASED THERAPY PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH THIS ARTICLE. MONIES IN
17 THE FUND MAY BE SPENT ONLY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED OR OUTDOOR-BASED
18 THERAPY PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR.

19 36-165.05. Annual report

20 ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR IN WHICH GRANTS ARE MADE
21 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A REPORT TO THE
22 GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES, AND SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY
24 OF STATE. THE REPORT SHALL SPECIFY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 25 1. THE AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONIES THAT WERE AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS
- 26 ARTICLE IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.
- 27 2. THE NAME OF EACH GRANT RECIPIENT.
- 28 3. THE AMOUNT AWARDED TO EACH GRANT RECIPIENT.
- 29 4. THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH EACH GRANT WAS AWARDED.
- 30 5. A SUMMARY FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE FUND MONIES.