

REFERENCE TITLE: water use; prohibition; landscaping

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

SB 1523

Introduced by
Senator Dunn

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 9-500.52; AMENDING TITLE 45, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 9, ARIZONA
REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 45-563.03; RELATING TO WATER
MANAGEMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 9, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 9-500.52, to read:

4 9-500.52. Active management areas; safe-yield; requirements;
5 prohibition; definitions

6 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS LOCATED
7 WITHIN AN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA THAT HAS A MANAGEMENT GOAL OF SAFE-YIELD
8 MAY NOT ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY CODE, ORDINANCE, RULE, REGULATION, STANDARD,
9 STIPULATION OR OTHER REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY REQUIRES ANY
10 OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 11 1. A MINIMUM NUMBER OF TREES.
- 12 2. A MINIMUM SIZE FOR TREES OR SHRUBS.
- 13 3. A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF GROUND COVER.
- 14 4. A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TURF.
- 15 5. OPEN SPACE BEYOND WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR RETENTION.
- 16 6. DETACHED SIDEWALKS.

17 B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

18 1. "ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN
19 SECTION 45-402.

20 2. "SAFE-YIELD" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 45-561.

21 Sec. 2. Title 45, chapter 2, article 9, Arizona Revised Statutes,
22 is amended by adding section 45-563.03, to read:

23 45-563.03. Turf and plant installation; prohibition;
24 exception

25 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS LOCATED IN AN
26 INITIAL ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA MAY NOT ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY REQUIREMENT
27 THAT ESTABLISHES, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

28 1. MINIMUM TURF REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPT FOR FUNCTIONAL TURF
29 REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE AREAS OR
30 OTHER PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE REGULARLY USED FOR CIVIC, COMMUNITY OR
31 RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING PLAYGROUNDS, SPORTS FIELDS, CEMETERIES,
32 SCHOOLYARDS AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT.

33 2. THE INSTALLATION OF PLANTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE
34 LOW-WATER-USE AND DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANT LIST THAT IS PUBLISHED BY THE
35 DEPARTMENT FOR THE MOST CURRENT MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE INITIAL ACTIVE
36 MANAGEMENT AREAS.

37 Sec. 3. Emergency

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