

Senate Engrossed

water use; prohibition; landscaping

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

SENATE BILL 1523

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. Initial active management areas; landscaping
5 requirements; prohibition; statewide preemption;
6 definition

7 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS LOCATED
8 WITHIN AN INITIAL ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA MAY NOT ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY
9 CODE, ORDINANCE, RULE, REGULATION, STANDARD, STIPULATION OR OTHER
10 REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY REQUIRES ANY 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 IRRIGATED GROUND COVER.
- 14 4. A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TURF.
- 15 5. OPEN SPACE THAT REQUIRES IRRIGATION BEYOND WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR
16 RETENTION.

17 B. THE REGULATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE PREVENTION OF
18 WATER USE MANDATES ARE OF STATEWIDE CONCERN.

19 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "INITIAL ACTIVE MANAGEMENT
20 AREA" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 45-402.

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; definition

25 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS LOCATED IN
26 AN 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. THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT AUTHORIZE
33 A MUNICIPALITY TO ADOPT OR ENFORCE MINIMUM TURF REQUIREMENTS FOR DRAINAGE
34 AREAS THAT ARE LOCATED IN SUBDIVISIONS.

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

39 B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "SUBDIVISION" HAS THE SAME
40 MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 32-2101.

41 (ENACTED WITHOUT THE EMERGENCY)

42 Sec. 3. Emergency

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