

REFERENCE TITLE: public cold plunge; rules; exemption

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2439

Introduced by
Representative Bliss

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 49-104, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 49-104, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 49-104. Powers and duties of the department and director

5 A. The department shall:

6 1. Formulate policies, plans and programs to implement this title
7 to protect the environment.

8 2. Stimulate and encourage all local, state, regional and federal
9 governmental agencies and all private persons and enterprises that have
10 similar and related objectives and purposes, cooperate with those
11 agencies, persons and enterprises and correlate department plans, programs
12 and operations with those of the agencies, persons and enterprises.

13 3. Conduct research on its own initiative or at the request of the
14 governor, the legislature or state or local agencies pertaining to any
15 department objectives.

16 4. Provide information and advice on request of any local, state or
17 federal agencies and private persons and business enterprises on matters
18 within the scope of the department.

19 5. Consult with and make recommendations to the governor and the
20 legislature on all matters concerning department objectives.

21 6. Promote and coordinate the management of air resources to ensure
22 their protection, enhancement and balanced ~~utilization~~ USE consistent with
23 the environmental policy of this state.

24 7. Promote and coordinate the protection and enhancement of the
25 quality of water resources consistent with the environmental policy of
26 this state.

27 8. Encourage industrial, commercial, residential and community
28 development that maximizes environmental benefits and minimizes the
29 effects of less desirable environmental conditions.

30 9. Ensure the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and
31 man-made scenic qualities.

32 10. Provide for the prevention and abatement of all water and air
33 pollution including that related to particulates, gases, dust, vapors,
34 noise, radiation, odor, nutrients and heated liquids in accordance with
35 article 3 of this chapter and chapters 2 and 3 of this title.

36 11. Promote and recommend methods for the recovery, recycling and
37 reuse or, if recycling is not possible, the disposal of solid wastes
38 consistent with sound health, scenic and environmental quality policies.
39 The department shall report annually on its revenues and expenditures
40 relating to the solid and hazardous waste programs overseen or
41 administered by the department.

42 12. Prevent pollution through regulating the storage, handling and
43 transportation of solids, liquids and gases that may cause or contribute
44 to pollution.

1 13. Promote the restoration and reclamation of degraded or
2 despoiled areas and natural resources.

3 14. Participate in the state civil defense program and develop the
4 necessary organization and facilities to meet wartime or other disasters.

5 15. Cooperate with the Arizona-Mexico commission in the governor's
6 office and with researchers at universities in this state to collect data
7 and conduct projects in the United States and Mexico on issues that are
8 within the scope of the department's duties and that relate to quality of
9 life, trade and economic development in this state in a manner that will
10 help the Arizona-Mexico commission to assess and enhance the economic
11 competitiveness of this state and of the Arizona-Mexico region.

12 16. Unless specifically authorized by the legislature, ensure that
13 state laws, rules, standards, permits, variances and orders are adopted
14 and construed to be consistent with and not more stringent than the
15 corresponding federal law that addresses the same subject matter. This
16 paragraph does not adversely affect standards adopted by an Indian tribe
17 under federal law.

18 17. Provide administrative and staff support for the oil and gas
19 conservation commission.

20 B. The department, through the director, shall:

21 1. Contract for the services of outside advisers, consultants and
22 aides reasonably necessary or desirable to enable the department to
23 adequately perform its duties.

24 2. Contract and incur obligations reasonably necessary or desirable
25 within the general scope of department activities and operations to enable
26 the department to adequately perform its duties.

27 3. Use any medium of communication, publication and exhibition when
28 disseminating information, advertising and publicity in any field of its
29 purposes, objectives or duties.

30 4. Adopt procedural rules that are necessary to implement the
31 authority granted under this title but that are not inconsistent with
32 other provisions of this title.

33 5. Contract with other agencies, including laboratories, in
34 furthering any department program.

35 6. Use monies, facilities or services to provide matching
36 contributions under federal or other programs that further the objectives
37 and programs of the department.

38 7. Accept gifts, grants, matching monies or direct payments from
39 public or private agencies or private persons and enterprises for
40 department services and publications and to conduct programs that are
41 consistent with the general purposes and objectives of this chapter.
42 Monies received pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the
43 department fund corresponding to the service, publication or program
44 provided.

1 8. Provide for the examination of any premises if the director has
2 reasonable cause to believe that a violation of any environmental law or
3 rule exists or is being committed on the premises. The director shall give
4 the owner or operator the opportunity for its representative to accompany
5 the director on an examination of those premises. Within forty-five days
6 after the date of the examination, the department shall provide to the
7 owner or operator a copy of any report produced as a result of any
8 examination of the premises.

9 9. Supervise sanitary engineering facilities and projects in this
10 state, authority for which is vested in the department, and own or lease
11 land on which sanitary engineering facilities are located, and operate the
12 facilities, if the director determines that owning, leasing or operating
13 is necessary for the public health, safety or welfare.

14 10. Adopt and enforce rules relating to approving design documents
15 for constructing, improving and operating sanitary engineering and other
16 facilities for disposing of solid, liquid or gaseous deleterious matter.

17 11. Define and prescribe reasonably necessary rules regarding the
18 water supply, sewage disposal and garbage collection and disposal for
19 subdivisions. The rules shall:

20 (a) Provide for minimum sanitary facilities to be installed in the
21 subdivision and may require that water systems plan for future needs and
22 be of adequate size and capacity to deliver specified minimum quantities
23 of drinking water and to treat all sewage.

24 (b) Provide that the design documents showing or describing the
25 water supply, sewage disposal and garbage collection facilities be
26 submitted with a fee to the department for review and that no lots in any
27 subdivision be offered for sale before compliance with the standards and
28 rules has been demonstrated by approval of the design documents by the
29 department.

30 12. Prescribe reasonably necessary measures to prevent pollution of
31 water used in public or semipublic swimming pools and bathing places and
32 to prevent deleterious conditions at those places. The rules shall
33 prescribe minimum standards for the design of and for sanitary conditions
34 at any public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place and provide for
35 abatement as public nuisances of premises and facilities that do not
36 comply with the minimum standards. The rules shall be developed in
37 cooperation with the director of the department of health services and
38 shall be consistent with the rules adopted by the director of the
39 department of health services pursuant to section 36-136, subsection I,
40 paragraph 10. **THE RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY**
41 **TO PUBLIC OR SEMIPUBLIC COLD PLUNGES.**

42 13. Prescribe reasonable rules regarding sewage collection,
43 treatment, disposal and reclamation systems to prevent the transmission of
44 sewage borne or insect borne diseases. The rules shall:

(a) Prescribe minimum standards for the design of sewage collection systems and treatment, disposal and reclamation systems and for operating the systems.

(b) Provide for inspecting the premises, systems and installations and for abating as a public nuisance any collection system, process, treatment plant, disposal system or reclamation system that does not comply with the minimum standards.

(c) Require that design documents for all sewage collection systems, sewage collection system extensions, treatment plants, processes, devices, equipment, disposal systems, on-site wastewater treatment facilities and reclamation systems be submitted with a fee for review to the department and may require that the design documents anticipate and provide for future sewage treatment needs.

(d) Require that construction, reconstruction, installation or initiation of any sewage collection system, sewage collection system extension, treatment plant, process, device, equipment, disposal system, on-site wastewater treatment facility or reclamation system conform with applicable requirements.

14. Prescribe reasonably necessary rules regarding excreta storage, handling, treatment, transportation and disposal. The rules may:

(a) Prescribe minimum standards for human excreta storage, handling, treatment, transportation and disposal and shall provide for inspection of premises, processes and vehicles and for abating as public nuisances any premises, processes or vehicles that do not comply with the minimum standards.

(b) Provide that vehicles transporting human excreta from privies, septic tanks, cesspools and other treatment processes be licensed by the department subject to compliance with the rules. The department may require payment of a fee as a condition of licensure. The department shall establish by rule a fee as a condition of licensure, including a maximum fee. The fees shall be deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the solid waste fee fund established by section 49-881.

15. Perform the responsibilities of implementing and maintaining a data automation management system to support the reporting requirements of title III of the superfund amendments and reauthorization act of 1986 (P.L. 99-499) and article 2 of this chapter.

16. Approve remediation levels pursuant to article 4 of this chapter.

17. Establish or revise fees by rule pursuant to the authority granted under title 44, chapter 9, articles 8 and 9 and chapters 4 and 5 of this title for the department to adequately perform its duties. All fees shall be fairly assessed and impose the least burden and cost to the parties subject to the fees. In establishing or revising fees, the department shall base the fees on the direct and indirect costs of the department's relevant duties, including employee salaries and benefits,

1 professional and outside services, equipment, in-state travel and other
2 necessary operational expenses directly related to issuing licenses as
3 defined in title 41, chapter 6 and enforcing the requirements of the
4 applicable regulatory program.

5 18. Appoint a person with a background in oil and gas conservation
6 to act on behalf of the oil and gas conservation commission and administer
7 and enforce the applicable provisions of title 27, chapter 4 relating to
8 the oil and gas conservation commission.

9 C. The department may:

10 1. Charge fees to cover the costs of all permits and inspections it
11 performs to ensure compliance with rules adopted under section 49-203
12 except that state agencies are exempt from paying the fees.

13 2. Monies collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited,
14 pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the water quality fee fund
15 established by section 49-210.

16 3. Contract with private consultants for the purposes of assisting
17 the department in reviewing applications for licenses, permits or other
18 authorizations to determine whether an applicant meets the criteria for
19 issuance of the license, permit or other authorization. If the department
20 contracts with a consultant under this paragraph, an applicant may request
21 that the department expedite the application review by requesting that the
22 department use the services of the consultant and by agreeing to pay the
23 department the costs of the consultant's services. Notwithstanding any
24 other law, monies paid by applicants for expedited reviews pursuant to
25 this paragraph are appropriated to the department for use in paying
26 consultants for services.

27 D. The director may:

28 1. If the director has reasonable cause to believe that a violation
29 of any environmental law or rule exists or is being committed, inspect any
30 person or property in transit through this state and any vehicle in which
31 the person or property is being transported and detain or disinfect the
32 person, property or vehicle as reasonably necessary to protect the
33 environment if a violation exists.

34 2. Authorize in writing any qualified officer or employee in the
35 department to perform any act that the director is authorized or required
36 to do by law.

37 3. ADOPT RULES GOVERNING THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC OR
38 SEMIPUBLIC COLD PLUNGES.