

Senate Engrossed

Charlie Kirk; Don Bolles; memorial

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1686

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 41-608, 41-1304.05, 41-1363 AND 41-1862, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO WESLEY BOLIN PLAZA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 41-608, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 41-608. Veterans' donations fund; transfer; grants

5 A. The veterans' donations fund is established consisting of
6 monies, gifts and contributions donated to the department and monies
7 deposited pursuant to sections 28-2414, 28-2428, 28-2431, 28-2447,
8 28-2454, 28-2470.10, 28-2473, 28-2474, 28-2475, 28-2476 and 43-620. The
9 department shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are continuously
10 appropriated. The monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of
11 section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The department
12 shall annually transfer fifteen percent of all revenues received by the
13 department that are deposited in the veterans' donations fund pursuant to
14 this section to the subaccount established pursuant to section 41-608.01
15 in the state homes for veterans trust fund. The department shall adopt
16 rules or policies for grants of less than \$5,000 that encourage as much
17 competition as practicable.

18 B. The director or the director's designee may solicit and receive
19 donations, including in-kind donations, from the public for veterans. The
20 director shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, the
21 monetary donations in the veterans' donations fund. Monies in the fund
22 are subject to state auditing procedures. Except for monies deposited
23 pursuant to sections 28-2431 and 28-2447, the donations may be used for
24 the benefit of the veterans within this state as grants, subject to
25 chapter 24 of this title, if applicable.

26 C. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
27 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
28 section 28-2431, subsection C. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
29 for the construction and maintenance of the enduring freedom memorial
30 authorized pursuant to section 41-1363 for placement in **THE Wesley Bolin**
31 **AND CHARLIE KIRK FREEDOM** Plaza.

32 D. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
33 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
34 section 28-2447, subsection F. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
35 for the benefit of women veterans in this state, including providing
36 shelter to homeless women veterans as grants, subject to chapter 24 of
37 this title, if applicable.

38 E. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
39 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
40 section 28-2454, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount shall
41 be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to section
42 28-2454, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate monies from
43 the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section 501(c)(3)
44 of the United States internal revenue code for federal income tax purposes
45 and that is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based

1 scholarships to children of United States military members. The
2 foundation must:

- 3 1. Have been in existence for at least fifty-two years.
- 4 2. Have provided more than thirty-three thousand scholarships that
5 are valued at almost \$90,000,000.
- 6 3. Have a mission that includes honoring marines and educating
7 their children.
- 8 4. Award scholarship monies to children of marines and navy
9 corpsmen who were killed or wounded in combat or who have demonstrated
10 financial need.

11 F. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
12 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
13 section 28-2470.10, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount
14 shall be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to
15 section 28-2470.10, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate
16 monies from the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section
17 501(c)(3) of the United States internal revenue code for federal income
18 tax purposes. The foundation must:

- 19 1. Have been in existence for at least twenty years.
- 20 2. Have a mission that includes providing college scholarships to:
 - 21 (a) The sons and daughters of those who have served the United
22 States honorably as soldiers in the United States army.
 - 23 (b) The spouses of enlisted soldiers on active duty in the United
24 States army.
- 25 3. Envision increasing its fundraising and visibility to encourage
26 more applicants to apply for scholarships and to provide larger
27 scholarships to an increasing number of deserving applicants to both:
 - 28 (a) Reward army families for the sacrifices that army soldiers make
29 every day to serve their nation.
 - 30 (b) Help the spouses and children of army soldiers become leaders
31 in society.
- 32 4. Award scholarship monies to:
 - 33 (a) Children of former United States army members who were killed
34 while serving in the United States army or who received an honorable
35 discharge or medical discharge.
 - 36 (b) Children of United States army members in good standing serving
37 in regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty national guard.
 - 38 (c) Spouses of United States army members in good standing serving
39 in regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty national guard.
- 40 G. The director shall inventory and account for the use of any
41 tangible personal property donated to the fund.

1 H. The department may use up to \$150,000 from the veterans'
2 donations fund each fiscal year to administer this section. In addition
3 to any other full-time equivalent positions authorized by law, the
4 department is authorized two full-time equivalent positions to administer
5 this section.

6 I. On notice from the director, the state treasurer shall invest
7 and divest monies in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies
8 earned from investment shall be credited to the fund.

9 Sec. 2. Section 41-1304.05, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
10 read:

11 41-1304.05. Architect of the capitol; state capitol building
12 areas and other facilities; jurisdiction;
13 maintenance; definition

14 A. The office of the architect of the capitol is established in the
15 Arizona legislative council. The director of the Arizona legislative
16 council shall select an architect of the capitol and other personnel
17 necessary to develop and maintain a master plan for the state capitol
18 complex. The architect of the capitol appointed by the director of the
19 Arizona legislative council must have master planning experience and
20 experience working with the state historic preservation office and
21 historic government buildings. The architect of the capitol shall submit
22 the master plan to the members of the Arizona legislative council for
23 approval at least once during each regular session of the legislature.

24 B. The Arizona legislative council is responsible for the
25 allocation of space, operation, alteration, renovation and control of the
26 following:

27 1. The original 1898 statehouse area of the state capitol building
28 known as the state capitol museum.

29 2. The 1919 wing and the 1938 justice addition of the state capitol
30 building known jointly as the legislative services wing.

31 3. Any other facility acquired for legislative use and placed under
32 legislative council jurisdiction and the grounds adjacent to it.

33 4. Except as provided in subsection D, paragraph 2 of this section,
34 the Wesley Bolin ~~memorials~~ AND CHARLIE KIRK FREEDOM Plaza east of the state
35 capitol building.

36 5. Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section, the
37 grounds adjacent to the state capitol museum, the legislative services
38 wing, the house of representatives wing and the senate wing and comprising
39 the area east of the state capitol executive tower with a northern
40 boundary of West Adams street, an eastern boundary of Seventeenth avenue
41 and a southern boundary of West Jefferson street in Phoenix, Arizona.

1 C. The speaker of the house of representatives is responsible for
2 the following:

3 1. The allocation of space, operation, alteration, renovation and
4 control of the house of representatives wing of the state capitol
5 building.

6 2. The allocation of space and control of the parking lot area
7 adjacent to the house of representatives wing, the parking lot area with a
8 southern boundary of West Adams street, an eastern boundary of seventeenth
9 avenue and a northern boundary of West Monroe street in Phoenix, Arizona
10 and ~~comprised of~~ COMPRISING one hundred five parking spaces and the
11 southeast portion of the parking lot area with a southern boundary of West
12 Monroe street and an eastern boundary of Seventeenth avenue in Phoenix,
13 Arizona and comprised of fifty parking spaces.

14 D. The president of the senate is responsible for the following:

15 1. The allocation of space, operation, alteration, renovation and
16 control of the senate wing of the state capitol building.

17 2. The allocation of space and control of the parking lot area
18 adjacent to the senate wing and the southwest portion of the parking lot
19 area of the Wesley Bolin ~~memorial~~ AND CHARLIE KIRK FREEDOM Plaza east of
20 the state capitol building and ~~comprised of~~ COMPRISING one hundred twenty
21 parking spaces.

22 E. The joint legislative budget committee is responsible for the
23 allocation of space, operation, alteration, renovation and control of the
24 building located at 1716 West Adams street in Phoenix.

25 F. The director of the department of administration is responsible
26 for the maintenance of the entire state capitol building.

27 G. For the purposes of this section, "control" includes security
28 services.

29 Sec. 3. Section 41-1363, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
30 read:

31 41-1363. Monuments and memorials within governmental mall;
32 legislative authorization; approval; procedure

33 A. Notwithstanding section 34-225 or any other law, a monument or
34 memorial recognizing or honoring a person, group, entity or event shall be
35 located in the governmental mall only if a prior legislative act
36 authorizes the monument or memorial.

37 B. After legislative authorization, a monument or memorial may be
38 established by the following procedures:

39 1. The proponents shall submit a concept to the legislative council
40 for the design, dimensions and location of the monument or memorial.

41 2. The legislative council shall review the concept and determine
42 the most appropriate location that highlights the monument or memorial and
43 preserves the integrity of the governmental mall.

44 3. After recommendations from the historical advisory commission
45 regarding the historical integrity of the monument or memorial and after

1 any necessary negotiations with the proponents, the legislative council
2 shall approve the final design, dimensions, location and maintenance
3 requirements of the monument or memorial, the minimum dollar amount
4 required for deposit in the state monument and memorial repair fund
5 established by section 41-1365 and any statement, declaration, writing or
6 inscription that will be imprinted or stamped on the monument or memorial.

7 4. Before construction of the monument or memorial begins, the
8 proponents shall enter into a contract with the legislative council
9 specifying the conditions of the design, dimensions and location of the
10 monument or memorial, a list of the artists, contractors and
11 subcontractors that will be employed, the minimum dollar amount required
12 for deposit in the state monument and memorial repair fund established by
13 section 41-1365 and a verification that all employees for the project are
14 insured and that this state is indemnified against any liability in regard
15 to the construction.

16 5. An approved monument or memorial shall be completed and
17 dedicated to this state within two years after the effective date of the
18 legislative act authorizing the monument or memorial.

19 C. Except as otherwise provided in this section or section 41-1365,
20 all fundraising and the establishment and administration of a fund for
21 deposit of monies and contracts for artistic design and construction of
22 the monument or memorial are the sole responsibility of the proponents.

23 D. If the completed monument or memorial deviates from the final
24 design or dimension that was approved by the legislative council or any
25 statement, declaration, writing or inscription that is imprinted or
26 stamped on the monument or memorial deviates from that which was approved
27 by the legislative council, the proponents are responsible for any costs
28 incurred to conform the monument or memorial to the approved form.

29 E. The proponents shall collect an amount equal to at least ten
30 percent of the artistic design and construction costs of the monument or
31 memorial or the amount approved by the legislative council as provided in
32 subsection B of this section. The legislative council shall deposit these
33 monies in the state monument and memorial repair fund established by
34 section 41-1365 for the maintenance, repair, reconditioning or relocation
35 of that monument or memorial. The monies must be deposited in the fund
36 before ~~the~~ beginning ~~of~~ construction of the monument or memorial.

37 F. The legislative council may relocate monuments or memorials that
38 are located in the governmental mall.

39 G. This section does not apply to monuments or memorials in which a
40 political subdivision has a contractual interest and that are located in
41 the governmental mall but that are outside THE Wesley Bolin AND CHARLIE
42 KIRK FREEDOM Plaza.

1 Sec. 4. Section 41-1862, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2 read:

3 41-1862. Arizona fallen firefighter memorial committee;
4 powers and duties; subcommittee

5 A. The Arizona fallen firefighter memorial committee shall:

6 1. Establish an acceptable set of standards for persons to be
7 memorialized on the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial that is located in
8 THE Wesley Bolin AND CHARLIE KIRK FREEDOM Plaza.

9 2. Determine those persons who are eligible to be memorialized.

10 3. Plan and provide for additions to and maintenance of the Arizona
11 fallen firefighter memorial on an annual basis.

12 4. Solicit private monetary donations or public monies from
13 municipalities for deposit in the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial
14 fund.

15 5. Conduct an annual fallen firefighter memorial service.

16 6. Determine those persons who are eligible for the tuition waiver
17 scholarship pursuant to section 15-1808 and report the determination to
18 the governor's office and Arizona board of regents or to each community
19 college district governing board, as applicable.

20 B. The committee may establish a subcommittee that is appointed by
21 the committee chairperson to receive applications from and recommend
22 tuition waiver scholarships for persons who are eligible for the tuition
23 waiver scholarship pursuant to section 15-1808. The subcommittee shall
24 forward any recommendation for a tuition waiver scholarship to the
25 committee for approval.

26 C. The committee shall meet every January and May. The committee
27 may conduct additional meetings in person or telephonically.

28 Sec. 5. Wesley Bolin and Charlie Kirk Freedom Plaza

29 The legislative council shall designate Wesley Bolin Plaza as the
30 "Wesley Bolin and Charlie Kirk Freedom Plaza".

31 Sec. 6. Charlie Kirk memorial; procedures; delayed repeal

32 A. Pursuant to section 41-1363, subsection A, Arizona Revised
33 Statutes, this act authorizes the legislative council to provide for the
34 placement in the Wesley Bolin and Charlie Kirk Freedom Plaza of a memorial
35 dedicated to the commemoration of Charlie Kirk.

36 B. The procedures prescribed in section 41-1363, Arizona Revised
37 Statutes, apply to the establishment of the memorial.

38 C. Public monies are not authorized for the costs of the memorial.
39 All fundraising and contracts for artistic design and construction of the
40 memorial are the sole responsibility of the proponents. This state may
41 not facilitate fundraising or establish a state fund for the deposit of
42 the monies.

43 D. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2029.

1 Sec. 7. Don Bolles memorial; procedures; delayed repeal

2 A. Pursuant to section 41-1363, subsection A, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, this act authorizes the legislative council to provide for the
4 placement in the Wesley Bolin and Charlie Kirk Freedom Plaza of a memorial
5 dedicated to the commemoration of Don Bolles.

6 B. The procedures prescribed in section 41-1363, Arizona Revised
7 Statutes, apply to the establishment of the memorial.

8 C. Public monies are not authorized for the costs of the memorial.
9 All fundraising and contracts for artistic design and construction of the
10 memorial are the sole responsibility of the proponents. This state may
11 not facilitate fundraising or establish a state fund for the deposit of
12 the monies.

13 D. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2029.

14 Sec. 8. Legislative findings

15 The legislature finds that:

16 1. The memorial authorized by section 6 of this act is in
17 recognition of Charles James Kirk, a well-respected civil rights leader
18 and the founder of Turning Point USA, who was killed by an assassin's
19 bullet while exercising his first amendment rights to free speech and
20 peaceful assembly, as well as advocating for free, open and civil debate.

21 2. The memorial authorized by section 7 of this act is in
22 recognition of Don Bolles, a well-respected Arizona reporter, who was
23 killed in a car bombing nearly fifty years ago in connection with his
24 investigative work.