

House Engrossed

venue; employee conflict; superior court

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

# **CHAPTER 45**

## **HOUSE BILL 2126**

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 12, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 12-412; RELATING TO CHANGE OF VENUE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 12, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 12-412, to read:

4 12-412. Procedure for change of venue when a party is a court  
5 or clerk employee

6 A. IF A PARTY TO A CIVIL ACTION PENDING IN THE SUPERIOR COURT IS AN  
7 EMPLOYEE OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OR THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN THE  
8 COUNTY WHERE THE ACTION IS PENDING, A CHANGE OF VENUE AS A MATTER OF  
9 RIGHT, APPLIES ONLY IF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

10 1. THE EMPLOYEE HOLDS OR HELD AT THE TIME THE ACTION WAS FILED A  
11 LEADERSHIP OR SUPERVISORY POSITION, INCLUDING A JUDGE, COMMISSIONER,  
12 PRESIDING JUDGE, COURT ADMINISTRATOR, CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, CHIEF  
13 DEPUTY CLERK OR DIVISION DIRECTOR OR AN EQUIVALENT MANAGEMENT POSITION  
14 WITH AUTHORITY OVER COURT OPERATIONS OR PERSONNEL.

15 2. THE EMPLOYEE WORKS OR WORKED IN THE SAME DIVISION OF THE  
16 SUPERIOR COURT TO WHICH THE ACTION IS ASSIGNED.

17 3. THE SUPERIOR COURT IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE ACTION IS PENDING HAS  
18 THREE OR FEWER DIVISIONS, AND THE EMPLOYEE IS EMPLOYED BY THE JUDICIAL  
19 BRANCH OR THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN THAT COUNTY.

20 B. IF A PARTY MEETS THE CRITERIA PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS  
21 SECTION, EITHER PARTY IS ENTITLED TO A CHANGE OF VENUE AS A MATTER OF  
22 RIGHT. ON REQUEST OF THE PARTY APPLYING FOR THE CHANGE OF VENUE, THE  
23 COURT SHALL TRANSFER THE ACTION TO THE MOST CONVENIENT ADJOINING COUNTY,  
24 UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREE TO ANOTHER COUNTY, IN WHICH CASE THE COURT SHALL  
25 TRANSFER THE ACTION TO THE AGREED-ON COUNTY.

26 C. IF A PARTY DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A  
27 OF THIS SECTION, A CHANGE OF VENUE BASED SOLELY ON THE PARTY'S EMPLOYMENT  
28 WITH THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OR THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT MAY BE GRANTED  
29 ONLY ON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE, INCLUDING A DEMONSTRATED RISK OF ACTUAL  
30 BIAS OR THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY THAT CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED  
31 THROUGH RECUSAL, REASSIGNMENT OR USE OF A VISITING JUDGE.

32 D. THIS SECTION DOES NOT LIMIT OR REPLACE ANY OTHER AUTHORITY OF  
33 THE COURT TO ORDER RECUSAL, REASSIGNMENT OR APPOINTMENT OF A VISITING  
34 JUDGE UNDER EXISTING LAW OR RULE.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 13, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 13, 2026.