

House Engrossed

~~HOV lane; blood transport vehicles~~  
(now: watercraft fund; distribution of monies)

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

# HOUSE BILL 2257

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 5-323 AND 5-383, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO  
BOATING AND WATER SPORTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 5-323, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 5-323. Disposition of fees; annual report

5 Each month monies received from the registration and infrastructure  
6 fees received under this chapter for the numbering of watercraft shall be  
7 deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the watercraft  
8 licensing fund. Each month, the department shall distribute the monies as  
9 follows:

10 1. All revenues collected pursuant to section 5-321, subsection A  
11 and section 5-326 shall be allocated as follows:

12 (a) ~~Sixty-five per cent~~ FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT shall be deposited in  
13 the watercraft licensing fund. The watercraft licensing fund is to be used  
14 by the department for administering and enforcing this chapter, providing  
15 an information and education program relating to boating and boating  
16 safety and administering any aquatic invasive species program established  
17 under this title or title 17. These monies are subject to legislative  
18 appropriation.

19 (b) ~~Thirty-five per cent~~ FORTY-FIVE PERCENT of such revenues shall  
20 be further allocated as follows:

21 (i) ~~Fifteen per cent~~ TEN PERCENT to the state lake improvement fund  
22 to be used as prescribed by section 5-382.

23 (ii) ~~Eighty-five per cent~~ NINETY PERCENT to the law enforcement and  
24 boating safety fund to be used as prescribed by section 5-383.

25 2. All revenues collected from any additional registration fees  
26 collected pursuant to section 5-321, subsection ~~C~~ D shall be paid to an  
27 account designated by a multi-county water conservation district  
28 established under title 48, chapter 22 to be used solely for the lower  
29 Colorado river multispecies conservation program and for no other purpose.

30 Sec. 2. Section 5-383, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
31 read:

32 5-383. Law enforcement and boating safety fund; boating law  
33 enforcement, personnel, equipment and training  
34 funding to counties

35 A. ~~A~~ THE law enforcement and boating safety fund is established  
36 ~~that consists~~ CONSISTING of monies distributed to the fund pursuant to  
37 sections 5-323, 5-395.01, 5-395.03, 5-396 and 5-397. The monies are  
38 subject to legislative appropriation.

39 B. Only a board of supervisors of a county that has a law  
40 enforcement and boating safety program that was in existence before July  
41 1, 1990 shall be eligible to receive law enforcement and boating safety  
42 fund monies. THE REVENUES ALLOCATED TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BOATING  
43 SAFETY FUND SHALL BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

44 1. 1.03 PERCENT TO APACHE COUNTY.

45 2. 10.45 PERCENT TO COCONINO COUNTY.

1           3. 7.35 PERCENT TO GILA COUNTY.  
2           4. 12.5 PERCENT TO LA PAZ COUNTY.  
3           5. 9.65 PERCENT TO MARICOPA COUNTY.  
4           6. 49.22 PERCENT TO MOHAVE COUNTY.  
5           7. .5 PERCENT TO NAVAJO COUNTY.  
6           8. 9.3 PERCENT TO YUMA COUNTY.  
7           C. The state treasurer shall administer the fund. ~~Using an~~  
8 ~~allocation formula as determined annually by the commission,~~ The state  
9 treasurer shall distribute monies monthly from the law enforcement and  
10 boating safety fund to eligible counties as prescribed in subsection B of  
11 this section.  
12           ~~D. In determining the allocation formula, the commission may~~  
13 ~~consider the following:~~  
14           ~~1. The adequacy of existing county boating safety programs that~~  
15 ~~include accident investigations.~~  
16           ~~2. The number of recreational days of use on water within the~~  
17 ~~jurisdiction of the counties in areas of administrative authority.~~  
18           ~~3. The surface acreage of water within the jurisdiction of the~~  
19 ~~counties in areas of administrative authority.~~  
20           ~~4. The county water safety record.~~  
21           ~~5. The ability of the county to constructively use additional~~  
22 ~~monies.~~  
23           ~~6. The ratio of boating use to water surface within the~~  
24 ~~jurisdiction of the counties in areas of administrative authority.~~  
25           ~~7. The ability of participating counties to provide continued~~  
26 ~~funding of the program.~~  
27           ~~8. Annual input and feedback from the county boards of supervisors~~  
28 ~~receiving funds.~~  
29           ~~9. Boat accident data for the waterways within the jurisdiction of~~  
30 ~~the county.~~  
31           E. D. The monies distributed to a county board of supervisors  
32 shall be used by the law enforcement agencies of the county solely for  
33 boating law enforcement, personnel, equipment and training.