

House Engrossed

county seal; authority; sheriff's posse

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

HOUSE BILL 2270

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 11-251.17 AND 11-441, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING
TO COUNTY AUTHORITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 11-251.17, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 11-251.17. Use of county seal, logo or insignia restricted;
5 county offices; cease and desist order;
6 violation; classification; exception

7 A. A person may use, display or otherwise employ any facsimile,
8 copy, likeness, imitation or other resemblance of the county seal, LOGO OR
9 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY, WHETHER
10 IDENTICAL OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR, THAT IMPLIES AFFILIATION WITH THE
11 COUNTY only after obtaining the approval of the board of supervisors of
12 that county. The board of supervisors may grant a certificate of approval
13 on application by any person showing good cause for the use of the county
14 seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE
15 COUNTY for a proper purpose. No person other than a county department may
16 use the county seal ~~for the purpose of advertising or promoting~~, LOGO OR
17 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY TO
18 ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE the sale of any article of merchandise within this
19 state or for promoting any other commercial purpose. The board of
20 supervisors may adopt rules for the use of the county seal, LOGO OR
21 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY or any
22 facsimile, copy, likeness, imitation or other resemblance of the county
23 seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE
24 COUNTY, including rules for the use of the county seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA
25 OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THE COUNTY for official county
26 business.

27 B. A PERSON MAY USE, DISPLAY OR OTHERWISE EMPLOY ANY FACSIMILE,
28 COPY, LIKENESS, IMITATION OR OTHER RESEMBLANCE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR
29 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF A COUNTY OFFICE, WHETHER IDENTICAL
30 OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR, THAT IMPLIES AFFILIATION WITH THAT COUNTY OFFICE
31 ONLY AFTER OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IN CONTROL OF
32 THAT COUNTY OFFICE. THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IN CONTROL OF THE APPROPRIATE
33 COUNTY OFFICE MAY GRANT A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL ON APPLICATION BY ANY
34 PERSON SHOWING GOOD CAUSE FOR USING THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL
35 OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF THAT COUNTY OFFICE FOR A PROPER PURPOSE.
36 A PERSON OTHER THAN A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR
37 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF A COUNTY ELECTED OFFICE TO
38 ADVERTISE OR PROMOTE THE SALE OF ANY ARTICLE OF MERCHANDISE WITHIN THIS
39 STATE OR FOR PROMOTING ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL PURPOSE. THE BOARD OF
40 SUPERVISORS MAY ACT TO ADOPT RULES FOR THE USE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR
41 ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER FOR ANY COUNTY OFFICE OR ANY
42 FACSIMILE, COPY, LIKENESS, IMITATION OR OTHER RESEMBLANCE OF THE LOGO,
43 INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF ANY COUNTY OFFICE,
44 INCLUDING RULES FOR THE USE OF THE LOGO, INSIGNIA OR ANOTHER VISUAL OR

1 TEXTUAL IDENTIFIER OF ANY COUNTY OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL COUNTY BUSINESS. THE
2 BOARD MAY ALSO ACT ON A REQUEST OF A COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR THE
3 COUNTY OFFICE TO WHICH THE REQUESTING COUNTY OFFICIAL IS ELECTED.

4 ~~B.~~ C. If the county maintains a website, it shall display on its
5 website the adopted seal, LOGO OR INSIGNIA and the text of subsection A of
6 this section.

7 ~~C.~~ D. The board of supervisors shall issue a cease and desist
8 order to any person who is in violation of this section. If the person
9 fails to comply with the cease and desist order, the person is guilty of a
10 class 3 misdemeanor.

11 E. SUBSECTIONS A AND B OF THIS SECTION DO NOT LIMIT THE ABILITY OF
12 A PERSON TO USE A COUNTY SEAL, LOGO OR INSIGNIA TO ENGAGE IN SATIRE OR
13 PARODY.

14 Sec. 2. Section 11-441, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 11-441. Powers and duties

17 A. The sheriff shall:

18 1. Preserve the peace.

19 2. Arrest and take before the nearest magistrate for examination
20 all persons who attempt to commit or who have committed a public offense.

21 3. Prevent and suppress all affrays, breaches of the peace, riots
22 and insurrections that may come to the knowledge of the sheriff.

23 4. Attend all courts, except justice and municipal courts, when an
24 element of danger is anticipated and attendance is requested by the
25 presiding judge and obey lawful orders and directions issued by the judge.

26 5. Take charge of and keep the county jail, including a county jail
27 under the jurisdiction of a county jail district, and the prisoners in the
28 county jail.

29 6. Endorse on all process and notices the year, month, day, hour
30 and minute of reception and issue to the person delivering the process or
31 notice, on payment of fees, a certificate showing the names of the
32 parties, the title of the paper and the time of reception.

33 7. Serve process and notices in the manner prescribed by law and
34 certify under the sheriff's hand on the process or notices the manner and
35 time of service, or if the sheriff fails to make service, the reasons for
36 failure, and return them without delay. When returnable to another
37 county, the sheriff may enclose such process or notices in an envelope,
38 addressed to the officer from whom received, and deposit the envelope
39 postage prepaid in the post office. The return of the sheriff is prima
40 facie evidence of the facts stated in the return.

1 8. Secure, as soon as possible, the home of a deceased person
2 located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town if the
3 sheriff is unable to determine or locate the heirs or executor of the
4 deceased person.

5 B. The sheriff, in executing the duties prescribed in subsection A,
6 paragraphs 1 through 4 of this section, may command the aid of as many
7 inhabitants of the county as the sheriff deems necessary.

8 C. The sheriff shall conduct or coordinate within the county search
9 or rescue operations involving the life or health of any person or may
10 assist in such operations in another county at the request of that
11 county's sheriff. The sheriff may request assistance from any persons or
12 agencies in fulfilling duties under this subsection. A search and rescue
13 unit established or recognized by a county may possess human remains as
14 defined in section 36-301 for the purpose of training canines used for
15 search and rescue work. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee shall keep
16 an inventory of all human remains that are kept for the purpose of
17 training search and rescue canines. The inventory must be updated when
18 the search and rescue unit receives human remains or disposes of human
19 remains that are no longer useful to the search and rescue unit. Each
20 search and rescue unit that possesses human remains for the purpose of
21 training search and rescue canines shall establish policies and standard
22 operating procedures for access to, the inventory of and the possession
23 and disposal of human remains kept for the purpose of training search and
24 rescue canines.

25 D. The sheriff, in executing the duties prescribed in this section,
26 may request the aid of volunteer posse and reserve organizations located
27 in the county.

28 E. The sheriff may assist in executing the duties prescribed in
29 this section in another county at the request of that county's sheriff.

30 F. The sheriff may require any prisoner who is on work release to
31 reimburse the county for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with
32 the release.

33 G. The board of supervisors of a county bordering Mexico may adopt
34 an ordinance pursuant to chapter 2 of this title allowing the sheriff to
35 prevent the entry from this state into Mexico at the border by any
36 resident of this state who is under eighteen years of age if the minor is
37 unaccompanied by a parent or guardian or does not have written consent for
38 entry from the minor's parent or guardian. The authority of the sheriff
39 is only to prevent entry and not to otherwise detain the minor. This
40 subsection does not limit the authority of the sheriff pursuant to any
41 other law. A county is not civilly or criminally liable for not adopting
42 an ordinance pursuant to this subsection.

1 H. Notwithstanding section 13-3112, the sheriff may authorize
2 members of the sheriff's volunteer posse who have received and passed
3 firearms training that is approved by the Arizona peace officer standards
4 and training board to carry a deadly weapon without a permit while on
5 duty.

6 I. THE SHERIFF HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO NAME ANY POSSE THAT IS
7 ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND TO DISSOLVE ANY POSSE THAT
8 OPERATES UNDER THE SHERIFF'S JURISDICTION.