

Senate Engrossed House Bill
school district governing boards; training

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

HOUSE BILL 2379

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-302, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-349; AMENDING SECTION 15-421, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-302, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-302. Powers and duties

5 A. The county school superintendent shall:

6 1. Distribute all laws, reports, circulars, instructions and forms
7 that the county school superintendent may receive for the use of school
8 officers.

9 2. Record all official acts.

10 3. Appoint governing board members of school districts to fill all
11 vacancies, but the term of the appointment shall be until the next regular
12 election for governing board members, at which time a successor shall be
13 elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term. ~~A person who is
14 subject to registration as a sex offender in this state or in any other
15 jurisdiction is ineligible for appointment under this paragraph.~~ Within
16 thirty days after notification of a vacancy, the school district governing
17 board may submit up to three names to the county school superintendent for
18 consideration of an appointment to fill the vacancy. The county school
19 superintendent is not required to appoint a governing board member from
20 the list of names submitted by the governing board. The county school
21 superintendent, if the county school superintendent deems it in the best
22 interest of the community, may call a special election to fill the
23 vacancies. If an election is called, the newly elected member shall serve
24 for the remainder of the unexpired portion of the term. **A PERSON IS
25 INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IF EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING
26 APPLIES:**

27 (a) **THE PERSON IS SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION AS A SEX OFFENDER IN THIS
28 STATE OR IN ANY OTHER JURISDICTION.**

29 (b) **THE PERSON IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO
30 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION
31 15-349, SUBSECTION E.**

32 4. Make reports, when directed by the superintendent of public
33 instruction, showing matters relating to schools in the county as may be
34 required on the forms furnished by the superintendent of public
35 instruction.

36 5. Have such powers and perform such duties as otherwise prescribed
37 by law.

38 6. On or before October 1 of each year, report to the
39 superintendent of public instruction the amount of monies received from
40 state school funds, special school district taxes and other sources, the
41 total expenditures for school purposes and the balance on hand to the
42 credit of each school district at the close of the school year.

43 7. Contract with the board of supervisors for the board of
44 supervisors to conduct all regular school district elections.

1 8. Be responsible, in cooperation with the school district
2 governing boards and the board of supervisors, for all special school
3 district elections.

4 9. Maintain teacher and administrator certification records of
5 effective dates and expiration dates of teachers' and administrators'
6 certificates in compliance with guidelines prescribed in the uniform
7 system of financial records for those school districts for which the
8 county school superintendent is the fiscal agent. The county school
9 superintendent shall not draw a warrant in payment of a teacher's,
10 substitute teacher's or administrator's salary unless the teacher,
11 substitute teacher or administrator is legally certified during the fiscal
12 year in which the term for payment is demanded.

13 10. Notify a school district three years before the expiration of a
14 revenue control limit override that the school district's budget must be
15 adjusted in the final two years of the override pursuant to section
16 15-481, subsections P and Q, if the voters do not approve another
17 override.

18 11. In collaboration with the department of education and other
19 state agencies, assist school districts, charter schools, county free
20 library districts, municipal libraries, nonprofit and public libraries,
21 tribal libraries, private schools and tribal schools on using student
22 data, staff development, curriculum alignment and technology to improve
23 student performance.

24 12. Assist schools in meeting yearly adequate progress goals as
25 defined by criteria established by the state board of education and
26 implemented by the department of education.

27 B. At the request of school districts and charter schools, the
28 county school superintendent may provide discretionary programs in
29 addition to the programs prescribed in subsection A of this section.

30 C. The county school superintendent may:

31 1. Provide the services prescribed in subsections A and B of this
32 section in the county or jointly with two or more counties pursuant to
33 title 11, chapter 7, article 3.

34 2. Review the operations and finances, including expenditures, of
35 any school district that is located in the county.

36 D. Each county school superintendent may establish an advisory
37 committee to the office of the county school superintendent.

38 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,
39 is amended by adding section 15-349, to read:

40 15-349. Governing board members; training requirements;
41 annual reports; ineligibility; auditor general
42 approval; joint legislative audit committee hearing
43 and approval

44 A. NOT LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF A SCHOOL
45 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER'S TERM OF OFFICE, THE GOVERNING BOARD

1 MEMBER SHALL COMPLETE A TRAINING PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A TOTAL OF AT LEAST
2 EIGHT HOURS OF INSTRUCTION ON SCHOOL FINANCE, INCLUDING HOW ALL OF THE
3 FOLLOWING TOPICS RELATE TO SCHOOL FINANCE:

- 4 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 5 2. THE FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 6 3. HOW TO DEVELOP, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING
7 BOARD POLICIES.
- 8 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.
- 9 5. STUDENT OUTCOME-FOCUSED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 10 6. THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
11 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 12 7. ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO
13 SERVICE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER.

14 B. THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH A SCHOOL
15 DISTRICT IS LOCATED OR, IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED IN MORE THAN ONE
16 COUNTY, THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH A
17 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER RESIDES SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS
18 APPROVED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED
19 BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
20 MEMBERS. A COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MAY ENTER INTO AN
21 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER COUNTY SCHOOL
22 SUPERINTENDENT TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH THE OTHER COUNTY
23 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

24 C. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2027 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH
25 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO WAS ELECTED OR APPOINTED IN THE
26 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR SHALL NOTIFY THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
27 OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED THE DATE ON WHICH
28 THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMPLETED THE TRAINING. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
29 IS LOCATED IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTY, THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER MAY NOTIFY
30 THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE GOVERNING
31 BOARD MEMBER RESIDES. ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2027 AND EACH YEAR
32 THEREAFTER, EACH COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SHALL COMPILE THE
33 NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO
34 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT INDICATES WHETHER EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT
35 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A TRAINING PROGRAM
36 DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR HAS COMPLIED. THE STATE BOARD OF
37 EDUCATION SHALL COMPILE THE REPORTS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
38 AND, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2027 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, SHALL SUBMIT
39 A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE
40 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THE
41 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION THAT INDICATES WHETHER EACH SCHOOL
42 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMPLETED THE TRAINING.

43 D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING PROGRAM
44 THAT IS APPROVED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS
45 PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING PRESCRIBED
2 BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION AND WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED A TRAINING
3 PROGRAM THAT IS PROVIDED BY A COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO
4 SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CHARGE EACH SCHOOL
5 DISTRICT FOR THE COST OF PROVIDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE SCHOOL
6 DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION. EACH
7 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PAY FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO
8 PROVIDE THE TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.

9 E. A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE
10 REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTIONS A AND C OF THIS SECTION IS
11 INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION, ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO
12 THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER IN ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE
13 IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER BOTH:

14 1. WAS NOT APPOINTED TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER DURING
15 THE CURRENT TERM.

16 2. IS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF A SCHOOL
17 DISTRICT THAT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST
18 RISK SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE.

19 F. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EACH COUNTY SCHOOL
20 SUPERINTENDENT WHO PROVIDES A TRAINING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF
21 THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL, IN
22 A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL, FOR APPROVAL BEFORE
23 PROVIDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ANY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER. IF THE
24 AUDITOR GENERAL DISAPPROVES A TRAINING PROGRAM SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS
25 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUBMIT THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE JOINT
26 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
27 AUDIT COMMITTEE MUST HEAR AND APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE TRAINING PROGRAM
28 AT THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING AFTER THE PROGRAM IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
29 THIS SUBSECTION. IF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVES THE
30 TRAINING PROGRAM BY A MAJORITY VOTE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE THE
31 TRAINING PROGRAM TO ANY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE
32 AUDITOR GENERAL.

33 Sec. 3. Section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
34 read:

35 15-421. Governing boards; members; qualifications;
36 prohibitions; candidate statements; definitions

37 A. The governing body of a school district shall be a governing
38 board. There shall be three governing board members, except as otherwise
39 provided by this section and section 15-425, subsection A.

40 B. The governing body of a high school district shall be a
41 governing board composed of:

42 1. In a single district, the governing board members of the common
43 school district.

44 2. In a union high school district, five members.

1 C. A person is eligible for election to the office of governing
2 board member if all of the following apply:

3 1. The person is a registered voter of this state.

4 2. The person has been a resident of the school district for at
5 least one year immediately preceding the day of election.

6 3. The person is not subject to registration as a sex offender in
7 this state or in any other jurisdiction.

8 4. THE PERSON IS NOT INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION OR
9 ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION
10 15-349, SUBSECTION E.

11 D. An employee of a school district, including a person who
12 directly provides certified or classified services to the school district
13 as an employee of a third-party contractor, or the spouse of such an
14 employee may not hold membership on the governing board of a school
15 district by which the employee is employed.

16 E. Notwithstanding subsection D of this section and title 38,
17 chapter 3, article 8, a small school district may employ, including
18 employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the
19 small school district, a substitute teacher who is related to a member of
20 the governing board as immediate family and who has had the same household
21 of residence within the preceding four years. If a small school district
22 employs a substitute teacher pursuant to this subsection, the member of
23 the governing board who is related to the substitute teacher shall be
24 recused from voting on any matter relating to substitute teachers.

25 F. A school district may employ, including employment through a
26 third-party contractor that provides services to the school district, a
27 person who served as a member of the school district's governing board
28 during the preceding two years only in a position in which the person will
29 provide services directly to students, including as a certificated
30 teacher, a substitute teacher and an employee or contractor who provides
31 transportation, instructional support or student support services. A
32 school district may increase the time period prescribed in this subsection
33 to be more than two years.

34 G. A member of one governing board is ineligible to be a candidate
35 for nomination or election to or serve simultaneously as a member of any
36 other governing board, except that a member of a governing board may be a
37 candidate for nomination or election for any other governing board if the
38 member is serving in the last year of a term of office. A member of a
39 governing board shall resign the member's seat on the governing board
40 before becoming a candidate for nomination or election to the governing
41 board of any other school district, unless the member of the governing
42 board is serving in the last year of a term of office.

43 H. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school
44 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement
45 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing

1 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list
2 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link
3 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the
4 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the
5 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office
6 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification
7 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than
8 twenty-one days before the date that general election early ballots are
9 allowed to be mailed. The person shall post each candidate's statement on
10 the county school superintendent's website not later than fourteen days
11 before the date that general election early ballots are allowed to be
12 mailed. If a candidate does not submit a statement, the county school
13 superintendent's website shall state "no response submitted" for the
14 candidate. The candidate statements shall be posted on the website
15 alphabetically by each school district and by candidate. The candidate
16 statement shall be typewritten or electronically submitted. The county
17 school superintendent shall post the statements verbatim as they are
18 received unless a candidate requests in writing that typographical errors
19 be corrected. The candidate statement shall contain the following items
20 in the same size and format for each candidate:

- 21 1. A recent photograph of the candidate.
- 22 2. A statement not to exceed five hundred words.
- 23 3. A disclosure of any relationships by affinity, by consanguinity
24 or by law to the third degree that exist between the candidate and any
25 current governing board members or other candidates for election to the
26 same governing board.

27 I. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household
28 of residence within four years prior shall not serve simultaneously on the
29 governing board of the same school district if the governing board is
30 composed of five members. For a school district with a student count of
31 at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a population
32 of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two persons
33 related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall
34 serve simultaneously on the governing board of the same school district if
35 the governing board is composed of five members. A qualified elector who
36 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to
37 enforce this subsection.

38 J. A person related as immediate family who has the same household
39 of residence within four years prior to a member of the governing board of
40 the same school district is ineligible to be a candidate for nomination or
41 election to that governing board if the governing board is composed of
42 five members, except that a person related as immediate family who has the
43 same household of residence within four years prior to a member of a
44 governing board may be a candidate for nomination or election to the
45 governing board of the same school district if the member is serving in

1 the last year of a term of office. For a school district with a student
2 count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a
3 population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two
4 persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third
5 degree shall be eligible to be a candidate for nomination or election to a
6 governing board that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who
7 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to
8 enforce this subsection.

9 K. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household
10 of residence within four years prior are ineligible to be simultaneous
11 candidates for nomination or election to the governing board of the same
12 school district if the governing board is composed of five members. For a
13 school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty that is
14 located in a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand
15 persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity
16 or by law to the third degree shall be simultaneous candidates for
17 nomination or election to a governing board that is composed of five
18 members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring
19 an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.

20 L. For the purposes of this section:

21 1. "Household of residence" means the place of abode during
22 applicable time periods or the residence address used by an individual for
23 voter registration or property tax purposes.

24 2. "Immediate family" means individuals who are married to each
25 other and any children of those individuals.

26 3. "Small school district" has the same meaning prescribed in
27 section 15-901.

28 Sec. 4. Existing school district governing board members;
29 training requirements; definition

30 A. Notwithstanding section 15-349, Arizona Revised Statutes, as
31 added by this act, any individual who is a member of a school district
32 governing board in this state on the effective date of this act and whose
33 term of office expires on or after one year after the effective date of
34 this act shall both:

35 1. Complete a training program as required by section 15-349,
36 subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, not later
37 than one year after the effective date of this act.

38 2. Notify the appropriate county school superintendent of the date
39 on which the governing board member completes the training program as
40 prescribed by section 15-349, subsection C, Arizona Revised Statutes, as
41 added by this act.

1 B. Any school district governing board member in this state whose
2 term of office begins after the effective date of this act shall complete
3 the training program on or before the deadline prescribed by section
4 15-349, subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.

5 C. For the purposes of this section, "training program" means a
6 training program that meets the requirements prescribed by section 15-349,
7 subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.