

REFERENCE TITLE: prisoners; strip search; pat search

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

HB 2523

Introduced by
Representatives Stahl Hamilton: Contreras P, Garcia, Gutierrez, Luna-
Nájera, Simacek, Villegas, Volk; Senators Gabaldón, Ortiz

AN ACT

REPEALING SECTION 31-236, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 31,
CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION
31-236; RELATING TO PRISONERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Repeal

3 Section 31-236, Arizona Revised Statutes, is repealed.

4 Sec. 2. Title 31, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
5 is amended by adding a new section 31-236, to read:

6 31-236. Prisoners; strip search; pat search; procedures;
7 definition

8 A. A STRIP SEARCH MAY BE PERFORMED ONLY BY A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
9 WHO IS OF THE SAME GENDER AS THE PRISONER AND IN A ROOM THAT IS DESIGNATED
10 BY THE WARDEN, DEPUTY WARDEN OR PRISON ADMINISTRATOR FOR STRIP
11 SEARCHES. IF A REASON EXISTS FOR A STRIP SEARCH TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY,
12 THE SHIFT COMMANDER OR DUTY OFFICER MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE OF A PRIVATE
13 AREA OTHER THAN THE DESIGNATED STRIP SEARCH ROOM. EXCEPT DURING AN
14 INSPECTION OF THE HAIR ON A PRISONER'S HEAD, A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER MAY
15 NOT TOUCH ANY PART OF THE PRISONER'S BODY DURING A STRIP SEARCH.

16 B. A PAT SEARCH MAY BE PERFORMED ONLY BY A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER WHO
17 IS OF THE SAME GENDER AS THE PRISONER, EXCEPT THAT IN AN EMERGENCY
18 SITUATION, A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER MAY CONDUCT A PAT
19 SEARCH IF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

20 1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS DOCUMENTED IN THE CORRECTIONAL
21 SERVICE LOG:

22 (a) THE NAME OF THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER WHO CONDUCTS THE PAT
23 SEARCH.

24 (b) THE NAME OF ANY CORRECTIONAL OFFICER WHO WITNESSES THE PAT
25 SEARCH.

26 (c) THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER'S BADGE NUMBER.

27 (d) THE PRISONER'S NAME AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS NUMBER.

28 (e) THE REASON FOR THE CROSS GENDER PAT SEARCH.

29 2. WHEN POSSIBLE, THE PAT SEARCH IS CONDUCTED IN THE PRESENCE OF AT
30 LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER.

31 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "PAT SEARCH" MEANS A SEARCH
32 THAT IS CONDUCTED BY A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER WHO PATS DOWN OR FRISKS THE
33 BODY OF A CLOTHED PRISONER.