

House Engrossed

Interstate 11; environmental; engineering; study

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

HOUSE BILL 2601

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 28, CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 28-6902; RELATING TO STATE HIGHWAYS AND ROUTES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 28, chapter 20, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 28-6902, to read:

4 28-6902. Interstate 11

5 A. NOT LATER THAN FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
6 SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FORMALLY REQUEST FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY
7 ADMINISTRATION FOR SEGMENTATION OF THE INTERSTATE 11 PROJECT BETWEEN
8 INTERSTATE 10 AT THE CITY OF CASA GRANDE AND THE TOWN OF WICKENBURG AS A
9 SEGMENT OF INDEPENDENT UTILITY.

10 B. NOT LATER THAN THREE MONTHS AFTER FEDERAL APPROVAL OF
11 SEGMENTATION REQUESTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, THE
12 DEPARTMENT SHALL CARRY OUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS AND OBTAIN ANY
13 FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORIZATIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR THE SEGMENT
14 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE
15 FEDERAL LAW AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'S GUIDANCE.

16 Sec. 2. Legislative findings

17 The legislature finds that:

18 1. A 2022 lawsuit stalled the entire Interstate 11 project
19 statewide, even in areas not directly implicated by the lawsuit, delaying
20 congestion relief, safety improvements and economic development.

21 2. Advancing the tier 2 study for the rest of the corridor is a
22 lawful and practical solution. This advancement demonstrates independent
23 utility, serves existing and projected transportation demand and can
24 function regardless of future decisions on southern alignments.

25 3. The rest of the corridor is environmentally distinct from the
26 contested portions of the corridor and does not raise the same land-use or
27 protected-resource concerns at issue in the lawsuit.

28 4. Segmenting the project is consistent with federal highway
29 administration precedent and long-standing national environmental policy
30 act practice, allowing discrete projects to advance when the segments
31 stand on separate merit.

32 5. Moving forward with tier 2 does not undermine the ongoing
33 litigation. It simply ensures this state can continue responsible,
34 incremental planning where legally permissible.

35 6. Interstate 11 is critical to Arizona's economic future,
36 improving freight movement, supporting regional growth, enhancing
37 interstate commerce and increasing safety for rapidly growing communities.