

Senate Engrossed

civil liability; fraudulent scientific research

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1066

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 12, CHAPTER 6, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE
20; RELATING TO CIVIL LIABILITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 12, chapter 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding article 20, to read:

4 ARTICLE 20. FRAUDULENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

5 12-791. Fraudulent scientific research; civil liability;
6 statute of limitations; exception; definitions

7 A. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR COUNTY ATTORNEY MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION
8 AGAINST A RESEARCHER FOR KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY PUBLISHING FRAUDULENT
9 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE ACTION SHALL BE PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING
10 EVIDENCE.

11 B. A RESEARCHER IS NOT LIABLE IN AN ACTION COMMENCED PURSUANT TO
12 THIS SECTION FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

13 1. PREREGISTERING A SCIENTIFIC HYPOTHESIS, METHOD OR ANALYSIS
14 BEFORE RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED.

15 2. DISCOVERING RESULTS THAT WERE REPORTED TO AN INSTITUTION OR THE
16 PUBLIC WERE MISINTERPRETED OR THAT AN ERROR WAS MADE IN DATA ANALYSIS.

17 3. PROVIDING REASONABLE ACCESS TO THE STUDY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OR
18 PUBLICATION OF THE RESEARCH.

19 4. POSTING THE METHODOLOGY AND DATA ON AN OPEN ACCESS DATABASE OR
20 SITE.

21 C. IN AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY ORDER:

22 1. TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

23 2. RESTITUTION TO THE INJURED PARTY, INCLUDING RESEARCH
24 INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES, FUNDING AGENCIES, CORESEARCHERS AND PERSONS
25 WHO SUFFERED REPUTATIONAL HARM, FINANCIAL HARM OR OTHER DAMAGES.

26 3. A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN \$50,000.

27 4. ANY OTHER RELIEF THAT THE COURT DETERMINES TO BE APPROPRIATE.

28 D. AN ACTION FOR FRAUDULENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHALL BE COMMENCED
29 WITHIN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE RESEARCH IS PUBLISHED.

30 E. IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE
31 ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL DEPOSIT, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 35-146 AND 35-147,
32 CIVIL PENALTIES COLLECTED IN THE STATE GENERAL FUND. IF THE COUNTY
33 ATTORNEY BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY SHALL
34 DEPOSIT CIVIL PENALTIES COLLECTED IN THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND.

35 F. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION, A PARTY THAT
36 SUFFERS DAMAGES DUE TO A RESEARCHER WHO KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY PUBLISHES
37 FRAUDULENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAY:

38 1. SUE IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.

39 2. RECOVER ACTUAL DAMAGES SUSTAINED, INCLUDING THE COST OF THE SUIT
40 AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES.

41 G. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

42 1. A RESEARCHER WHO PUBLISHES SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT WAS
43 CONDUCTED AT OR FUNDED BY A UNIVERSITY ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY
44 RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR

1 AGENCY, AND ANY SUCH UNIVERSITY IS NOT LIABLE UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ANY
2 FRAUDULENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

3 2. RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY OR FUNDED BY A DRUG MANUFACTURER THAT IS
4 REGISTERED WITH THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY, AND ANY SUCH DRUG
5 MANUFACTURER IS NOT LIABLE UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ANY FRAUDULENT
6 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

7 H. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

8 1. "FRAUDULENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH" MEANS RESEARCH THAT IS
9 KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY PUBLISHED USING FALSE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION OR
10 CONCLUSIONS.

11 2. "KNOWINGLY" INCLUDES ACTING IN DELIBERATE IGNORANCE OF THE
12 VERACITY OF THE INFORMATION AND DOES NOT REQUIRE PROOF OF A PERSON'S
13 SPECIFIC INTENT TO DEFRAUD.

14 3. "PUBLICATION" MEANS THE FORMAL PROCESS OF MAKING RESEARCH
15 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

16 4. "RECKLESSLY" INCLUDES ACTING IN DISREGARD OF THE VERACITY OF THE
17 INFORMATION.

18 5. "RESEARCHER" MEANS A PERSON WHO CONDUCTS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.