

Senate Engrossed

public schools; released time courses

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

SENATE BILL 1741

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-189.08; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA
REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-341.02; RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 1, article 8, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-189.08, to read:

4 15-189.08. Released time courses; requirements; private cause
5 of action

6 A. EACH CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY SHALL ALLOW STUDENTS TO
7 ATTEND A RELEASED TIME COURSE DURING REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS IF ALL OF THE
8 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

9 1. THE SCHOOL RECEIVES WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE PARENT OF EACH
10 PARTICIPATING STUDENT.

11 2. THE PROVIDER OF THE RELEASED TIME COURSE DOES ALL OF THE
12 FOLLOWING:

13 (a) RECORDS THE ATTENDANCE OF EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT AND
14 PROVIDES COPIES OF THE ATTENDANCE RECORDS TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL.

15 (b) ASSUMES ALL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT
16 WHILE THE STUDENT IS UNDER THE PROVIDER'S CONTROL.

17 (c) PROVIDES RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS FOR AT
18 LEAST ONE HOUR BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HOURS PER WEEK.

19 (d) DEMONSTRATES THAT THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE RELEASED TIME COURSE
20 HAS SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS AS INSTRUCTORS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE CHARTER
21 SCHOOL.

22 3. ANY NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES RELATING TO A RELEASED
23 TIME COURSE ARE PROVIDED BY THE RELEASED TIME COURSE PROVIDER,
24 PARTICIPATING STUDENTS OR THE PARENTS OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.

25 4. EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING ANY
26 SCHOOLWORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSES BECAUSE THE STUDENT ATTENDS A RELEASED
27 TIME COURSE.

28 B. EACH CHARTER SCHOOL THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ATTEND A RELEASED
29 TIME COURSE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

30 1. AWARD ACADEMIC CREDIT TO EACH STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES
31 THE RELEASED TIME COURSE. THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL DETERMINE HOW MUCH
32 CREDIT TO AWARD FOR THE RELEASED TIME COURSE BY USING ONLY SECULAR
33 CRITERIA THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE CRITERIA THAT THE CHARTER
34 SCHOOL USES TO EVALUATE SIMILAR COURSES, INCLUDING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

35 (a) THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

36 (b) THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS THAT ARE
37 USED FOR THE RELEASED TIME COURSE ACCORDING TO THE SYLLABUS.

38 (c) STUDENT ASSESSMENTS THAT ARE CONDUCTED BY THE RELEASED TIME
39 COURSE PROVIDER.

40 2. COUNT ANY TIME THAT A STUDENT SPENDS PARTICIPATING IN A RELEASED
41 TIME COURSE DURING REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS AS INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND
42 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SECTIONS
43 15-797, 15-808 AND 15-901 AND TO DETERMINE AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP AND
44 DAILY ATTENDANCE.

- 1 C. A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY NOT:
2 1. INCUR EXPENSES TO PROVIDE A RELEASED TIME COURSE.
3 2. ALLOW A RELEASED TIME COURSE TO BE PROVIDED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.
4 D. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION, A CHARTER SCHOOL
5 MAY NOT DENY ANY RELEASED TIME COURSE PROVIDER EQUAL ACCESS TO MONIES,
6 BENEFITS OR SERVICES THAT THE CHARTER SCHOOL PROVIDES TO OTHER COMMUNITY
7 GROUPS OR INDEPENDENT ENTITIES.
8 E. ANY PERSON WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS
9 SECTION HAS A PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, MONETARY
10 DAMAGES, REASONABLE COURT COSTS, REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND ANY OTHER
11 RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER LAW AGAINST THE CHARTER SCHOOL.
12 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,
13 is amended by adding section 15-341.02, to read:
14 15-341.02. Released time courses; requirements; private cause
15 of action
16 A. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ALLOW STUDENTS TO
17 ATTEND A RELEASED TIME COURSE DURING REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS IF ALL OF THE
18 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:
19 1. THE SCHOOL RECEIVES WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE PARENT OF EACH
20 PARTICIPATING STUDENT.
21 2. THE PROVIDER OF THE RELEASED TIME COURSE DOES ALL OF THE
22 FOLLOWING:
23 (a) RECORDS THE ATTENDANCE OF EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT AND
24 PROVIDES COPIES OF THE ATTENDANCE RECORDS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.
25 (b) ASSUMES ALL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT
26 WHILE THE STUDENT IS UNDER THE PROVIDER'S CONTROL.
27 (c) PROVIDES RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS FOR AT
28 LEAST ONE HOUR BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HOURS PER WEEK.
29 (d) DEMONSTRATES THAT THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE RELEASED TIME COURSE
30 HAS SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS AS TEACHERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL
31 DISTRICT.
32 3. ANY NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES RELATING TO A RELEASED
33 TIME COURSE ARE PROVIDED BY THE RELEASED TIME COURSE PROVIDER,
34 PARTICIPATING STUDENTS OR THE PARENTS OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.
35 4. EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING ANY
36 SCHOOLWORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSES BECAUSE THE STUDENT ATTENDS A RELEASED
37 TIME COURSE.
38 B. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ATTEND A RELEASED
39 TIME COURSE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL:
40 1. AWARD ACADEMIC CREDIT TO EACH STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES
41 THE RELEASED TIME COURSE. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DETERMINE HOW MUCH
42 CREDIT TO AWARD FOR THE RELEASED TIME COURSE BY USING ONLY SECULAR
43 CRITERIA THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE CRITERIA THAT THE SCHOOL
44 DISTRICT USES TO EVALUATE SIMILAR COURSES, INCLUDING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
45 (a) THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

1 (b) THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS THAT ARE
2 USED FOR THE RELEASED TIME COURSE ACCORDING TO THE SYLLABUS.

3 (c) STUDENT ASSESSMENTS THAT ARE CONDUCTED BY THE RELEASED TIME
4 COURSE PROVIDER.

5 2. COUNT ANY TIME THAT A STUDENT SPENDS PARTICIPATING IN A RELEASED
6 TIME COURSE DURING REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS AS INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND
7 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SECTIONS
8 15-797, 15-808 AND 15-901 AND TO DETERMINE AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP AND
9 DAILY ATTENDANCE.

10 C. A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT:

11 1. INCUR EXPENSES TO PROVIDE A RELEASED TIME COURSE.

12 2. ALLOW A RELEASED TIME COURSE TO BE PROVIDED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

13 D. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION, A SCHOOL DISTRICT
14 MAY NOT DENY ANY RELEASED TIME COURSE PROVIDER EQUAL ACCESS TO MONIES,
15 BENEFITS OR SERVICES THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES TO OTHER COMMUNITY
16 GROUPS OR INDEPENDENT ENTITIES.

17 E. ANY PERSON WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS
18 SECTION HAS A PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, MONETARY
19 DAMAGES, REASONABLE COURT COSTS, REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND ANY OTHER
20 RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER LAW AGAINST THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

21 Sec. 3. Short title

22 This act may be cited as the "Arizona Released Time Education Act".