

House Engrossed Senate Bill

~~school safety; identification system; appropriation~~
(now: FAFSA; financial aid awareness program)

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

SENATE BILL 1798

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-142, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-249.20; RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-142, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-142. Directory information relating to students; notice;
5 opt-out; consent; access to directory information;
6 access to school property; violation; definition

7 A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a school may
8 disclose directory information relating to students in accordance with
9 state and federal law if the school first notifies the parent or eligible
10 student of all of the following:

11 1. The types of information that the school has designated as
12 directory information.

13 2. The right of the parent or eligible student to refuse the
14 school's designation of any or all of the types of information about the
15 student as directory information.

16 3. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student
17 must notify the school in writing that the parent or eligible student does
18 not want any or all of the types of information about the student
19 designated as directory information.

20 B. Except as required by state or federal law, a school may not
21 disclose the address, telephone number or email address of a student
22 unless either:

23 1. The parent or eligible student has affirmatively consented in
24 writing to the disclosure.

25 2. The parent or eligible student has not opted out of the
26 disclosure pursuant to subsection A of this section and the disclosure is
27 either:

28 (a) To one or more students who are enrolled in the school and for
29 educational purposes.

30 (b) To school employees and for school business purposes.

31 C. If the governing board of a school district or the governing
32 body of a charter school allows the release of directory information
33 relating to students, subject to subsections A and B of this section, or
34 allows access to school buildings, school grounds or other school property
35 to persons who inform students of educational or occupational
36 opportunities, the governing board or governing body shall provide access
37 to directory information relating to students and to school property on
38 the same basis for official recruiting representatives of the militia of
39 this state and the armed services of the United States for the purpose of
40 informing students of educational and occupational opportunities available
41 in the militia and the armed services. If the school district or charter
42 school allows the release of directory information relating to students,
43 subject to subsections A and B of this section, the information shall be
44 released on or before October 31 of each year. The department of
45 education shall design and provide to school districts and charter schools

1 a form to allow parents or eligible students to request that a student's
2 directory information not be released pursuant to the elementary and
3 secondary education act as reauthorized by the no child left behind act of
4 2001. School districts and charter schools shall distribute the form to
5 parents and eligible students each year separate from any other form. If a
6 school district or charter school distributes materials to parents and
7 eligible students through an electronic communication or on an internet
8 website, the form may be distributed in the same manner. A person who is
9 wrongfully denied access to directory information or access to school
10 buildings, school grounds or other school property may notify the
11 department of education, which shall report the alleged violation to the
12 United States department of education.

13 D. Notwithstanding subsection C of this section, student
14 transcripts may not be released to representatives of postsecondary
15 institutions, the militia of this state or the armed services of the
16 United States unless the student consents in writing to the release of the
17 student's transcript. The governing board of the school district or the
18 governing body of the charter school shall provide the student with a
19 transcript release form that allows the student to designate in separate
20 check boxes whether the transcript is to be released to postsecondary
21 institutions, the militia of this state or the armed services of the
22 United States, or to any combination of these entities. THIS SUBSECTION
23 DOES NOT PROHIBIT A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL FROM ENTERING INTO A
24 PARTNERSHIP WITH ONE OR MORE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN THIS STATE FOR
25 THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ABOUT EDUCATIONAL
26 OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AT EACH POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION.

27 E. This section does not authorize school districts or charter
28 schools to release information that would violate the family educational
29 rights and privacy act of 1974 (20 United States Code section 1232g). Any
30 person who suspects that a school district or charter school has knowingly
31 violated the family educational rights and privacy act may notify the
32 principal of the charter school or the superintendent of the school
33 district. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the principal
34 of the charter school or the superintendent of the school district within
35 sixty days after the notice, the person may file a complaint with the
36 superintendent of public instruction. If the superintendent of public
37 instruction determines that a school district or charter school is
38 knowingly in violation of the family educational rights and privacy act,
39 the superintendent of public instruction shall notify the school district
40 or charter school that it is in violation of the family educational rights
41 and privacy act. If the superintendent of public instruction determines
42 that the school district or charter school has failed to correct the
43 violation within sixty days after a notice has been issued pursuant to
44 this subsection, the superintendent of public instruction may inform the
45 family policy compliance office of the United States department of

1 education of a possible violation of the family educational rights and
2 privacy act.

3 F. For the purposes of this section, "eligible student" means a
4 student who is at least eighteen years of age or is emancipated.

5 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
6 is amended by adding section 15-249.20, to read:

7 15-249.20. Financial aid awareness program; eligibility
8 requirements; annual determination; designation;
9 definitions

10 A. THE FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE THAT PROVIDE
12 FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT FOR COMPLETING THE FREE
13 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE
14 PROGRAM AND SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS IN
15 ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM. BEGINNING IN THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, ANY
16 SCHOOL IN THIS STATE MAY ELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BY NOTIFYING
17 THE DEPARTMENT AND BY DEMONSTRATING THAT THE SCHOOL MEETS ALL OF THE
18 FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

19 1. DESIGNATES AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE AS THE SCHOOL'S POINT OF
20 CONTACT FOR THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID. EACH DESIGNATED
21 EMPLOYEE SHALL:

22 (a) COMPLETE AN INITIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR THE FREE
23 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID THAT IS APPROVED OR RECOGNIZED BY
24 EITHER THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS OR A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
25 STUDENT AID SUPPORT PARTNER. THE DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE MAY RECEIVE
26 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR:

27 (i) COMPLETING THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS
28 SUBDIVISION.

29 (ii) COMPLETING ANY TRAINING AND EDUCATION AFTER THE ORIENTATION
30 PROGRAM TO LEARN ABOUT UPDATES TO FEDERAL POLICIES AND PROCESSES RELATING
31 TO THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

32 (b) PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
33 STUDENT AID, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND
34 ASSISTANCE, TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF STUDENTS.

35 2. ANNUALLY REPORTS TO THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE
36 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE
37 WHO IS DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

38 3. INCLUDES THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE WHO
39 IS DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION IN THE STUDENT
40 HANDBOOK AND IN AT LEAST ONE COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCHOOL TO STUDENTS AND
41 PARENTS OF STUDENTS.

42 4. POSTS THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE WHO IS
43 DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION ON THE SCHOOL'S
44 WEBSITE.

1 5. DEVELOPS AND IMPLEMENTS A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT
2 AID AWARENESS STRATEGY THAT IS ALIGNED WITH EDUCATION AND CAREER ACTION
3 PLAN REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. IF THE SCHOOL
4 PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE STRATEGY THAT IS
5 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MUST PROVIDE, THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S
6 MESSAGING SYSTEM, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND STUDENT
7 INFORMATION SYSTEM PORTAL, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN GRADE-LEVEL
8 COMMUNICATIONS TO STUDENTS IN EACH OF GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE:

9 (a) THE PURPOSE OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

10 (b) THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
11 STUDENT AID.

12 (c) THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL AID IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER
13 PATHWAYS.

14 6. IF THE SCHOOL PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,
15 PROVIDES, THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S MESSAGING SYSTEM, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS,
16 EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM PORTAL, THE FOLLOWING
17 INFORMATION TO THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE IN GRADE TWELVE:

18 (a) THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE PARENT OR CONTRIBUTOR PORTION
19 OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

20 (b) ANY SCHOOL-BASED OR STATEWIDE SUPPORT THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR
21 COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

22 (c) ANY RELEVANT DEADLINES OR RESOURCES.

23 B. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ANNUALLY DETERMINE WHETHER
24 EACH SCHOOL THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM MEETS THE
25 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION. THE
26 DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT REPORTS OR OTHER
27 EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

28 C. A SCHOOL THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCIAL AID
29 AWARENESS PROGRAM AND THAT MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AS
30 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, MAY
31 INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS PROGRAM DESIGNATION IN THE SCHOOL
32 REPORT CARD REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-746 AND ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE,
33 COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.

34 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

35 1. "FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID" MEANS THE APPLICATION
36 THAT IS REQUIRED BY 20 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1090 FOR INDIVIDUALS
37 SEEKING TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID.

38 2. "SCHOOL" MEANS A SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
39 CHARTER SCHOOL.