

REFERENCE TITLE: school districts; optimal square footage

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

SB 1816

Introduced by
Senator Farnsworth

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-492; AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA
REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 41-5702.01; RELATING TO SCHOOL
FACILITIES.

(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 4, article 5, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-492, to read:

4 15-492. Optimal square footage; election eligibility

5 NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 15-491, IF THE RATIO OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
6 OPTIMAL SQUARE FOOTAGE TO ACTUAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF ALL BUILDINGS THAT ARE
7 OWNED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS CALCULATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 41-5702.01, IS AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED TEN PERCENT, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 GOVERNING BOARD MAY NOT CALL AN ELECTION TO EITHER:

10 1. DETERMINE WHETHER BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY BE ISSUED AND
11 SOLD.

12 2. CHANGE THE LIST OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OR THE PURPOSES AUTHORIZED
13 BY PRIOR VOTER APPROVAL TO ISSUE BONDS.

14 Sec. 2. Title 41, chapter 56, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
15 is amended by adding section 41-5702.01, to read:

16 41-5702.01. School district buildings; optimal square
17 footage; posting; notification

18 A. ON OR BEFORE _____ OF EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL CALCULATE THE
19 OPTIMAL SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE BASED ON THE
20 NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GRADE CONFIGURATIONS
21 PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-5711, SUBSECTION C. FOR THE PURPOSE OF
22 CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE
23 BOARD SHALL USE THE SUM OF THE FOLLOWING:

24 1. THE MOST RECENT AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP DATA FOR THE SCHOOL
25 DISTRICT.

26 2. IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT LEASES A BUILDING OR A PORTION OF A
27 BUILDING TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL, THE STUDENT CAPACITY OF
28 THE BUILDING OR THE PORTION OF THE BUILDING. THE BOARD MAY INCLUDE THE
29 STUDENT CAPACITY OF A LEASED BUILDING OR PORTION OF A BUILDING PURSUANT TO
30 THIS PARAGRAPH ONLY AFTER VERIFYING THE LEASE. THE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE
31 THE FULL STUDENT CAPACITY OF A LEASED BUILDING OR PORTION OF A BUILDING
32 PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH WITHOUT REGARD TO WHETHER THE LEASE GRANTS TO
33 THE LESSEE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO USE THE SCHOOL BUILDING OR SCHOOL
34 FACILITIES THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE LEASE.

35 B. ON OR BEFORE _____ OF EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL:

36 1. POST ON THE BOARD'S WEBSITE BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

37 (a) THE OPTIMAL SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS
38 STATE CALCULATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION.

39 (b) THE RATIO OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPTIMAL SQUARE FOOTAGE TO
40 ACTUAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF ALL BUILDINGS THAT ARE OWNED BY THE SCHOOL
41 DISTRICT.

42 2. SUBMIT TO EACH COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND COUNTY BOARD OF
43 SUPERVISORS A NOTIFICATION THAT:

1 (a) IDENTIFIES EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE FOR WHICH THE
2 RATIO CALCULATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1, SUBDIVISION (b) OF THIS
3 SUBSECTION IS AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED TEN PERCENT.
4 (b) INCLUDES A STATEMENT THAT ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS
5 IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (a) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS INELIGIBLE TO
6 CALL A BOND ELECTION PURSUANT TO TITLE 15, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 5.