

House Engrossed

~~HOV lane; blood transport vehicles~~
(now: watercraft fund; distribution of monies)

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

CHAPTER 248

HOUSE BILL 2257

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 5-323 AND 5-383, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
BOATING AND WATER SPORTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 5-323, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 5-323. Disposition of fees; annual report

5 Each month monies received from the registration and infrastructure
6 fees received under this chapter for the numbering of watercraft shall be
7 deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the watercraft
8 licensing fund. Each month, the department shall distribute the monies as
9 follows:

10 1. All revenues collected pursuant to section 5-321, subsection A
11 and section 5-326 shall be allocated as follows:

12 (a) ~~Sixty-five per cent~~ FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT shall be deposited in
13 the watercraft licensing fund. The watercraft licensing fund is to be used
14 by the department for administering and enforcing this chapter, providing
15 an information and education program relating to boating and boating
16 safety and administering any aquatic invasive species program established
17 under this title or title 17. These monies are subject to legislative
18 appropriation.

19 (b) ~~Thirty-five per cent~~ FORTY-FIVE PERCENT of such revenues shall
20 be further allocated as follows:

21 (i) ~~Fifteen per cent~~ TEN PERCENT to the state lake improvement fund
22 to be used as prescribed by section 5-382.

23 (ii) ~~Eighty-five per cent~~ NINETY PERCENT to the law enforcement and
24 boating safety fund to be used as prescribed by section 5-383.

25 2. All revenues collected from any additional registration fees
26 collected pursuant to section 5-321, subsection ~~C~~ D shall be paid to an
27 account designated by a multi-county water conservation district
28 established under title 48, chapter 22 to be used solely for the lower
29 Colorado river multispecies conservation program and for no other purpose.

30 Sec. 2. Section 5-383, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
31 read:

32 5-383. Law enforcement and boating safety fund; boating law
33 enforcement, personnel, equipment and training
34 funding to counties

35 A. ~~A~~ THE law enforcement and boating safety fund is established
36 ~~that consists~~ CONSISTING of monies distributed to the fund pursuant to
37 sections 5-323, 5-395.01, 5-395.03, 5-396 and 5-397. The monies are
38 subject to legislative appropriation.

39 B. Only a board of supervisors of a county that has a law
40 enforcement and boating safety program that was in existence before July
41 1, 1990 shall be eligible to receive law enforcement and boating safety
42 fund monies. THE REVENUES ALLOCATED TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BOATING
43 SAFETY FUND SHALL BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

44 1. 1.03 PERCENT TO APACHE COUNTY.

45 2. 10.45 PERCENT TO COCONINO COUNTY.

- 1 3. 7.35 PERCENT TO GILA COUNTY.
- 2 4. 12.5 PERCENT TO LA PAZ COUNTY.
- 3 5. 9.65 PERCENT TO MARICOPA COUNTY.
- 4 6. 49.22 PERCENT TO MOHAVE COUNTY.
- 5 7. .5 PERCENT TO NAVAJO COUNTY.
- 6 8. 9.3 PERCENT TO YUMA COUNTY.

7 C. The state treasurer shall administer the fund. ~~Using an~~
8 ~~allocation formula as determined annually by the commission;~~ The state
9 treasurer shall distribute monies monthly from the law enforcement and
10 boating safety fund to eligible counties as prescribed in subsection B of
11 this section.

12 ~~D. In determining the allocation formula, the commission may~~
13 ~~consider the following:~~

14 ~~1. The adequacy of existing county boating safety programs that~~
15 ~~include accident investigations.~~

16 ~~2. The number of recreational days of use on water within the~~
17 ~~jurisdiction of the counties in areas of administrative authority.~~

18 ~~3. The surface acreage of water within the jurisdiction of the~~
19 ~~counties in areas of administrative authority.~~

20 ~~4. The county water safety record.~~

21 ~~5. The ability of the county to constructively use additional~~
22 ~~monies.~~

23 ~~6. The ratio of boating use to water surface within the~~
24 ~~jurisdiction of the counties in areas of administrative authority.~~

25 ~~7. The ability of participating counties to provide continued~~
26 ~~funding of the program.~~

27 ~~8. Annual input and feedback from the county boards of supervisors~~
28 ~~receiving funds.~~

29 ~~9. Boat accident data for the waterways within the jurisdiction of~~
30 ~~the county.~~

31 ~~E.~~ D. The monies distributed to a county board of supervisors
32 shall be used by the law enforcement agencies of the county solely for
33 boating law enforcement, personnel, equipment and training.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 22, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 22, 2026.