



# SOSAZ Legislative Report

Fifty-Fourth Legislature - First General Session

January 27, 2019

## ***RTS Your Support on HB2187, HB2310 & SB1118***

These good bills have just been assigned to committee. We can now use Request to Speak to express our support. See below for details and talking points.

- Unfamiliar with Request to Speak (RTS)? It's an easy way to stay informed on proposed legislation and to give state legislators your feedback. RTS is an online tool that allows you to be an "armchair activist" and weigh in on bills from the comfort of your home. Watch [this short video](#) to learn more!
- Request to Speak accounts can only be created at the Capitol. Don't have an account? [Sign up here](#) and a runner from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting will create your account and send instructions.

## ***Call Rep. Finchem & Bolick on HB2022 & HB2474***

Keep calling Rep. Mark Finchem on **HB2022 (moving ESA program oversight away from the Dept of Education)** and Rep. Shawna Bolick on **HB2474 (ESA voucher expansion)**. The voters have clearly stated that we want no new voucher bills. Ask them to respect the voters!



**SAVE OUR SCHOOLS**  
Strong Schools,  
Strong State

### **Call to ACTION!!!**

Contact Rep. Finchem  
on HB2022

 (602) 926-3122  
 [mfinchem@azleg.gov](mailto:mfinchem@azleg.gov)

**Respect the voters!**  
**NO NEW VOUCHERS!**



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Strong Schools,  
Strong State

### **Call to ACTION!!!**

Contact Rep. Bolick  
on HB2474

 (602) 926-3244  
 [sbolick@azleg.gov](mailto:sbolick@azleg.gov)

**Respect the voters!**  
**NO NEW VOUCHERS!**



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PAID FOR BY SAVE OUR SCHOOLS ARIZONA

# SB 1118



**Appropriation; State Board;  
Charter Schools**

**Aligns Charter School  
Procurement with District  
Schools**

**Sen. Kate Brophy McGee**

Would appropriate funds for the Charter Board to hire 8 new employees, allowing them to increase oversight.

This is part of a package of reforms to require more transparency and subject charter schools to the same procurement and conflict-of-interest laws that currently govern district schools.

House has also mentioned this as a priority.

# HB 2310



**School Procurement; Lowest  
Bidder; Repeal  
Repeals Lowest Bidder  
Requirement for Public School  
Contracts**

**Rep. Michelle Udall**

Would repeal the requirement that school districts always choose “the lowest qualified bidder” for materials, services, goods and construction. This language has created issues for school districts, because the lowest bidder is not always the best or most qualified.

The bill has bipartisan sponsors, and contains an emergency clause so it takes effect immediately.

# HB 2187



**Appropriation; K-12 Rollover  
Pays Off \$630 Million of Rollover  
Debt to Public Schools**

**Rep. Michelle Udall**

Would pay down \$630 million of the nearly \$1 billion “rollover” debt the state owes to schools.

For a decade the state has rolled over its final K-12 education payment to the next fiscal year, an accounting gimmick that delays an expense on paper so it doesn’t count toward the current year’s budget. The rollover is twice as much money as Arizona has in its rainy day fund, meaning the state could still have this debt on the books when the next recession begins if nothing is done.

The treasurer’s office says Arizona must pay off the rollover before a recession or daily operations of all state government will be at risk. Paying back the skipped payments won’t increase what schools can spend, but it will make their cash management easier. The Speaker of the

# HB 2022



**Empowerment Scholarships;  
Financial Oversight; Treasurer  
Transfer Financial Oversight of  
ESA Voucher Program Solely to  
Treasurer**

**Rep. Mark Finchem**

Would move financial oversight of ESA vouchers away from the Arizona Department of Education to the treasurer’s office.

Finchem’s proposed change could limit the amount of information ADOE receives about the thousands of ESA transactions it must monitor, loosening the program’s already lax oversight even further and making it exponentially harder to identify fraud.

ADOE opposes the bill, calling it an unnecessary change that would hinder the department’s efforts. Save Our Schools

Arizona also opposes the bill as going against the will of the voters; it reintroduces a portion of Prop 305, which may mean Finchem's proposed change is voter-protected and thus illegal.

# HB 2474



## Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Student Victims ESA Voucher Expansion for Student Victims Rep. Shawna Bolick

Would expand Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA vouchers) to a new category of children, "the alleged victim of battery, harassment, hazing, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, threatening, intimidation, fighting, sex trafficking or human trafficking."

The bill marks a return to incrementalist expansion of ESAs as a method of working toward fully privatizing Arizona's public schools for profit. Save Our Schools Arizona stands in opposition to this or any other ESA expansion effort.



**CLICK HERE**  
to read last week's SOSAZ Legislative Report.

# Who We Are

Save Our Schools Arizona™ is made up of everyday people who believe in our state and want it to succeed. We are parents, grandparents, teachers, retirees, and concerned voters from every corner of this state. We hold a wide variety of political party registrations and backgrounds. Our kids attend all kinds of schools, public, private and charter. We're as different from each other as Flagstaff is from Sierra Vista, or Winslow is from Tempe.

What do we have in common? We all understand that building strong schools for all our kids also means we're building a stronger, more prosperous state. Save Our Schools is so much bigger than politics. It's about doing right by Arizona's children, Arizona's families and Arizona's future.



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Strong Schools, Strong State  
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