

Calls to Action!



Support SB1485

Contact House Speaker Rusty Bowers at 602-926-3128 / rbowers@azleg.gov and ask him to ensure SB1485 is heard in the Rules Committee:

- This bill offers a more responsible use of tax dollars
- By keeping these funds in the budget, the state can better support its many priorities, including public education
- There is wide bipartisan agreement on the merits of this bill



Oppose SB1451

Contact your two representatives to oppose SB1451:

- This is an attack on grassroots political efforts in our state
- It rigs the system so only the already-powerful can succeed



Oppose SB1149

Contact your two representatives to oppose SB1149:

- Every Arizona child has the right to public education
- Welcoming EVERY student is a fundamental value of public education
- Taxpayers expect all students to have access to a quality education, not just some

BILL WATCH LIST + STATUS as of April 1

Many of these are identical, also called “mirror,” bills (marked with 🗳️). This process, known as “fast-tracking,” involves hearing identical bills in committee in each chamber, then substituting them for each other when it’s time for a floor vote. (SOSAZ longtimers will recognize this as the process used in 2017 to advance SB1431, the bill that become Prop 305.)

SB1395	<i>SB1395 (empowerment scholarship accounts; program revisions)</i>	Currently dead
SB1460	<i>SB1460 (TPT; digital goods and services)</i>	Currently dead
SB1451	<i>SB1451 (statewide ballot measures; circulators; procedures)</i>	Waiting for a House floor vote
SB1485	<i>SB1485 (school tuition organization; inflator)</i>	Ready for House Rules, not on an agenda
HB2187	<i>HB2187 (appropriation; K-12 rollover)</i>	Scheduled for Senate Appropriations, Tuesday
SCR1023	<i>SCR1023 (initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for Senate COW
HCR2005	<i>HCR2005 (initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for House caucus
SB1080	<i>SB1080 (TPT; use tax; education)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for Senate 3rd read
HB2563	<i>HB2563 (education funding; use tax; TPT)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for House caucus
SCR1011	<i>SCR1011 (TPT; use tax; education)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for Senate 3rd read
HCR2024	<i>HCR2024 (TPT and use tax; education)</i>	🗳️ Waiting for House Rules

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SB 1149



Oppose

Tax Credit Review; Evaluation Standard Striker to Allow Discriminatory Admission Policies for Districts Sen. Rick Gray

SB1149 is now subject to a striker from John Allen (R-15) that would permit a district to refuse to admit a pupil who is currently or in the process of being suspended from another school.

Kids of color, kids with special needs, and kids with emotional differences are already suspended at [statistically much higher rates](#). Welcoming and serving every child is a fundamental value of public education. Even children with challenges have a right to public education (and appropriate counseling/developmental services and supports) that help them succeed.

Public schools should never turn their back on Arizona's children. Scheduled for House Rules, Monday.

HB 2187



Support

Appropriation; K-12 Rollover Pays Off Debt Owed to Schools Rep. Michelle Udall

Would pay off the [nearly \\$1 billion "rollover" debt](#) the state owes to schools over a 3-year period. 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 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 this debt won't increase what schools can spend, but it will make

their cash management easier.

This proposal may be included in budget negotiations.

SB 1230



Support

Extraordinary Special Education Needs Fund Appropriates \$5 Million to Fund Special Education Grants for Public Schools Sen. Sylvia Allen

Would appropriate \$5 million for grants from the Department of Education to public district and charter schools that serve students with extraordinary special education needs.

Arizona's exceptional-needs fund has remained dormant for years because lawmakers swept funding and never restored it. It would help small districts cover the high cost of educating one or two high-need students.

Currently, many schools must dip into their general classroom funds to fund special services, cutting into regular education needs such as class sizes, support staff, and salaries.

Schools could apply for multiple grants with a maximum of \$200,000 per school year.

SB 1451



Oppose

Statewide Ballot Measures; Circulators; Procedures Creates Higher Hurdles for Statewide Ballot Measures Sen. Vince Leach

Would require all petitions for statewide initiatives and referenda to be organized and grouped by circulator. This is an extra burden on campaigns, especially grassroots

campaigns.

It also makes it easier for opponents to disqualify entire signature sheets. This would mean campaigns need even more signatures as a cushion, further raising the already high cost of putting measures on the ballot. This is a direct attack on citizen efforts like our No on Prop 305!

SB 1485



Support

Technical Correction; Tax Correction

Striker Capping STO Growth

Sen. JD Mesnard

SB1485 now contains a *striker* that would end the 20% annual automatic growth of corporate private school tax credits (STOs) by gradually decreasing the cap to 2% or inflation over the next 5 years.

Over the next 5 years the bill [would keep up to \\$263 million](#) in the general fund that would otherwise be diverted to private schools. Slowing the growth of this tax credit is critical, as it is on pace to [double every four years](#) unless state lawmakers take action.

SCR 1023



Oppose

Initiative; Referendum; Signatures; Legislative Districts Undermines Arizona's Citizen Initiative Process

Sen. Sine Kerr

Would essentially doom the citizen initiative process in Arizona, especially for grassroots groups like SOS AZ.

It [restricts Arizona's initiative process](#) by requiring ballot measures to collect signatures from a percentage of voters in each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts: 10% for initiatives and 15% for a constitutional amendment.

This would effectively give any single legislative district veto powers over the rest, allowing a small minority (the most conservative or liberal area in the state) to veto measures that have broad support.

See mirror bill [HCR2005](#), sponsored by Rep. John Kavanaugh.

HCR 2005



Oppose

Initiative; Referendum; Signatures; Legislative Districts Require Ballot Measures to Collect Signatures in All Districts
Rep. John Kavanaugh

Would essentially doom the citizen initiative process in Arizona, especially for grassroots groups like SOSAZ.

It [restricts Arizona's initiative process](#) by requiring ballot measures to collect signatures from a percentage of voters in each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts: 10% for initiatives and 15% for a constitutional amendment. This would effectively give any single legislative district veto powers over the rest, allowing a small minority (the most conservative or liberal area in the state) to veto measures that have broad support.

See mirror bill [SCR1023](#), sponsored by Sen. Sine Kerr.

301 Bills



Neutral

**SB1080, SCR1011
HB2563, HCR2024**

Prop. 301 Increase Package Bills
Multiple Prime Sponsors

A package of bills sponsored by Rep. Udall, Sen. Brophy McGee, and Sen. Allen, for a voter referendum to increase Prop. 301, AZ's education sales tax, by 0.4¢ to a full penny. We will keep you updated on our position as the bills advance.