

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-second Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
1996

**FILED**

**Jane Dee Hull  
Secretary of State**

CHAPTER 304

**HOUSE BILL 2569**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 41-2251 AND 41-2252, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

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

Section 1. Section 41-2251, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

41-2251. Establishment of advisory council; purpose; members; terms

A. The Arizona advisory council on environmental education is established to facilitate coordination and planning with public and private agencies and educational institutions on environmental education goals ~~and objectives contained in the comprehensive plan for environmental education.~~

FOR THE PURPOSES OF:

1. FOSTERING PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN THE APPLICATION AND EXPERIMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP CONCEPTS WITHIN AS BROAD A RANGE AS POSSIBLE, BOTH IN TYPES OF EXPERIENCES AND NUMBERS AND TYPES OF STUDENTS.

2. ENCOURAGING CRITICAL THINKING.

3. DEMONSTRATING THE NECESSITY OF INDIVIDUAL STEWARDSHIP.

4. DEMONSTRATING URBAN AND RURAL INTERDEPENDENCE.

B. The advisory council consists of ten members serving three year terms. Four members shall be appointed by the governor and shall include one member appointed at the discretion of the governor. The governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint three members to the council as follows:

1. One member who represents educational institutions.

1           2. One member who represents natural resource industries or  
2 organizations concerned with environmental preservation.

3           3. One member who represents private agencies or organizations.

4           C. Appointment to fill a vacancy resulting other than from expiration  
5 of a term shall be for the unexpired term only. The governor shall designate  
6 a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

7           D. Members of the advisory council are not eligible to receive  
8 compensation. Members are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant  
9 to title 38, chapter 4, article 2.

10          E. An unexcused absence from three consecutive meetings of the  
11 advisory council constitutes an abandonment of the office, and the governor,  
12 the president of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives  
13 shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term.

14          Sec. 2. Section 41-2252, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15          41-2252. Advisory council; duties; definition

16          A. The Arizona advisory council on environmental education shall:

17           1. Direct the state land department as to distributions from the  
18 environmental ~~license~~ SPECIAL plate fund established in section ~~28-382~~  
19 15-214.

20           2. Report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives and  
21 the president of the senate by October 30 of each year on uses of the fund  
22 to assure compliance with the purpose of the fund.

23          B. The advisory council shall:

24           1. Devise a system for evaluating funding requests to assure equitable  
25 distribution between schools and resource centers among rural and urban areas  
26 of the state.

27           2. PRODUCE A SIMPLE GRANT APPLICATION AND REPORTING PROCESS FOR THE  
28 ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL PLATE FUND.

29           3. ENCOURAGE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO FACILITATE THE  
30 COOPERATION OF LOCAL, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS OR MANAGERS IN HOSTING  
31 STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-2251,  
32 SUBSECTION A.

33           4. CONSULT WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL  
34 INSTITUTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

35           ~~2-~~ 5. Award grants not exceeding ten thousand dollars annually.  
36 Grant monies shall be used for environmental education projects INCORPORATING  
37 THE FACTORS IN SECTION 41-2251, SUBSECTION A, that are based on current  
38 scientific information and include a discussion of economic and social  
39 implications. Grants will be available to:

40           (a) Public, charter, alternative schools and natural resource  
41 conservation district education centers.

42           (b) Private organizations who have established joint research ventures  
43 with schools to provide instruction of environmental education.

1           6. DEVELOP APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR THE ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE AND  
2 OPERATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SITE, INCLUDING GUIDELINES TO ALLOW  
3 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL  
4 ENTITIES AND THIS STATE REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OR USE OF A SITE.

5           7. IN ADDITION TO THE GRANTS AWARDED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 5 OF THIS  
6 SUBSECTION, AWARD UP TO FOUR GRANTS ANNUALLY IN AMOUNTS OF UP TO THIRTY  
7 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO PAY FOR THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SITES FOR USE  
8 BY STUDENTS. GRANTS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO A STATE  
9 UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED  
10 A JOINT RESEARCH VENTURE WITH A STATE UNIVERSITY OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

11           C. Agencies or organizations who within one year prior to the  
12 application for this grant have received grant monies pursuant to sections  
13 17-298 or 41-503 are not eligible to receive grant monies pursuant to this  
14 section.

15           D. Natural resource conservation districts shall be eligible for  
16 monies not to exceed fifty per cent of the total fund in any given fiscal  
17 year.

18           E. Monies distributed from the fund shall be used for environmental  
19 education programs that are based on current scientific information and  
20 include discussions of economic and social implications. THE STATE LAND  
21 DEPARTMENT MAY BE REIMBURSED BY THE FUND FOR COPIES, POSTAGE AND OTHER  
22 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE COUNCIL.

23           F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "CURRENT SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION"  
24 MEANS SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION THAT EITHER HAS BEEN UPDATED WITHIN THE LAST  
25 FIVE YEARS OR THAT HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN TO BE OUT OF DATE.

26           Sec. 3. Environmental education sites; grant awards

27           Two of the grants awarded pursuant to section 41-2252, subsection B,  
28 paragraph 7, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, shall be used  
29 to pay for the acquisition, lease, maintenance, improvement or other expenses  
30 incurred in the use and operation of an environmental education site that is  
31 located in the Tonto national forest in Maricopa county and an environmental  
32 education site that is located in the Sierra Ancha mountains in Gila county.

33           Sec. 4. Delayed effective date

34           Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act are effective from and after October  
35 1, 1996.

36           Sec. 5. Laws 1994, chapter 294, section 12 is amended to read:

37           ~~Sec. 12.~~ Delayed repeal

38           Section 11 of this act is repealed on ~~March~~ DECEMBER 1, 1996.

39           Sec. 6. Retroactivity

40           Section 5 of this act is effective retroactively to from and after  
41 March 1, 1996.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 30, 1996

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 30, 1996