



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 16, 2018

The Honorable Michele Reagan  
Secretary of State  
1700 W. Washington, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Secretary Reagan:

I am transmitting to you the following bills from the Fifty-third Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session, which I signed on May 16, 2018:

- HB 2088 pupils; concussions; parental notification (Carter)
- HB 2197 health professionals; workforce data (Carter)
- HB 2209 internet protocol; corporation commission (Grantham)
- HB 2212 firearm possession; peace officers; definition (Thorpe)
- HB 2235 dental therapy; regulation; licensure (Thorpe)
- HB 2253 schools; exchange teachers; employment duration (Carter)
- HB 2307 scrap vehicles; sales (Campbell)
- HB 2310 underground storage tanks; reimbursement claims (Bowers)
- HB 2324 community health workers; voluntary certification (Carter)
- HB 2356 juvenile court; jurisdiction; age (Bowers)
- HB 2383 HOV lanes; emergency vehicles (Clodfelter)
- HB 2384 unlawful flight; vehicle impoundment (Clodfelter)
- HB 2414 state employee health plan; incentives (Kern)
- HB 2416 appropriation; study; prime contracting classification (Cobb)
- HB 2422 personal delivery devices (Townsend)
- HB 2455 commercial vehicles definition; driver licenses (Cook)
- HB 2510 auto dealers; task force; fund (John)

HB 2520 schools; reading requirement (Coleman)  
HB 2522 traffic violations; penalties (Syms)  
HB 2526 career technical education districts (Clodfelter)  
HB 2527 ticket surcharge; public safety equipment (Clodfelter)  
HB 2529 assisted living; referrals; disclosure (Campbell)  
HB 2532 occupational regulation; municipalities; counties; hearings (Payne)  
HB 2534 teachers; certification requirements (Carter)  
HB 2538 U.S. House vacancy; special election (Coleman)  
HB 2564 court fees; EORP; state contribution (Livingston)  
HB 2589 department of gaming omnibus (Cook)  
HB 2596 property taxes; procedures; abatement (Toma)  
HB 2648 ballot measures; paid circulator definition (Leach)  
HB 2649 public meetings; recordings; posting; definition (Grantham)  
HB 2650 commercial license; defensive driving school (Toma)  
HB 2651 landlord tenant; security deposits (Toma)  
HB 2652 electric bicycles; definition; use (Allen, J.)  
HB 2653 expenditure limitation; waiver of penalties (Cobb)  
HB 2654 illegal substances education; partnership (Thorpe)  
HB 2655 real estate licenses; online classes (Mosley)  
HB 2656 electronic wills and trusts (Leach)  
HB 2657 interscholastic activities; health dangers; information (Carter)  
SB 1039 appropriation; Arizona water protection fund (Griffin)  
SB 1140 certificates of authority; video service (Griffin)  
SB 1167 merit council; law enforcement qualifications (Griffin)  
SB 1181 corporation commission; railway safety inspectors (Griffin)  
SB 1245 appropriation; SNAP; benefit match; produce (Brophy McGee)  
SB 1254 school district consolidation (Allen, S.)  
SB 1271 construction liability; apportionment; study (Fann)  
SB 1273 administrative proceedings; rules; contested cases (Petersen)  
SB 1293 department of revenue; administrative efficiency (Farnsworth, D.)  
SB 1296 government communications; emergency response interpreters (Bowie)  
SB 1398 unemployment; return-to-work program; suitable work (Smith)  
SB 1409 TPT; prime contracting; alteration; replacement (Fann)  
SB 1476 county sheriff; reentry planning; appropriation (Gray)  
SB 1478 employer contributions; EORP (Fann)  
SB 1496 prisoners; drug sentences; out-of-custody treatment (Smith)  
SB 1498 AZPOST; membership; training; AMBER alert (Smith)

SB 1504 developmental disability rates; appropriation (Smith)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc: Senate Secretary  
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Arizona News Service

House Engrossed Senate Bill  
**FILED**

**MICHELE REAGAN**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-third Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2018

**CHAPTER 335**  
**SENATE BILL 1254**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-459, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING SECTION 15-459, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-459, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-459. Consolidation of districts; petition; election;  
5 notice; report; ballots; canvass of votes;  
6 governing board

7 A. On the request of the governing boards of two or more school  
8 districts in the same county or in adjacent counties or on receipt of  
9 petitions bearing the signatures of ten percent or more of the number of  
10 qualified electors who voted in whichever of the last two general  
11 elections resulted in the higher number of ballots cast and who reside in  
12 each of two or more school districts in the same county or in adjacent  
13 counties to consolidate the school districts or parts of the districts,  
14 the county school superintendent of each of the counties affected, within  
15 ten days, shall call an election to determine the question on  
16 consolidation.

17 B. Consolidations allowed pursuant to subsection A of this section  
18 include:

19 1. To change the boundaries of a school district to include any  
20 part of an adjacent school district.

21 2. If all the common school districts within the boundaries of an  
22 existing union high school district desire to consolidate into one common  
23 school district.

24 3. If two or more adjacent school districts of like character,  
25 either common, high or unified school districts, desire to consolidate  
26 into one common, high or unified school district.

27 4. If a common school district that is not a part of a union high  
28 school district desires to consolidate with an adjacent unified school  
29 district.

30 5. If two or more common school districts desire to consolidate  
31 into one school district and unify the consolidated district with a union  
32 high school district to form one unified school district.

33 6. To change the boundaries of a school district that has received  
34 a letter grade of A or B pursuant to section 15-241 to include another  
35 school district within twenty miles ~~of each other~~.

36 7. IF A COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS PART OF A UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
37 DISTRICT MADE UP OF TWO OR FEWER COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICTS DESIRES TO  
38 CONSOLIDATE WITH THAT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT.

39 C. Notice of the election to determine consolidation of school  
40 districts shall be posted in not less than three public places in each of  
41 the school districts proposed to be consolidated at least twenty-five days  
42 before the election.

43 D. The county school superintendent shall prepare and the governing  
44 board shall distribute a report on the proposed boundary changes in a

1 manner similar to that prescribed in section 15-481, subsection B. The  
2 report shall contain the following information:

- 3 1. The date of the election.
- 4 2. The polling places and times they are open.
- 5 3. The full cash value, the assessed valuation and the estimated  
6 amount of the primary property taxes and the estimated amount of the  
7 secondary property taxes under the proposed boundary changes for each of  
8 the following:

9 (a) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is the  
10 average assessed valuation of property classified as class three, as  
11 prescribed by section 42-12003 for the current year in the school  
12 district.

13 (b) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is  
14 one-half of the assessed valuation of the residence in subdivision (a) of  
15 this paragraph.

16 (c) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is twice  
17 the assessed valuation of the residence in subdivision (a) of this  
18 paragraph.

19 (d) A business whose assessed valuation is the average of the  
20 assessed valuation of property classified as class one, as prescribed by  
21 section 42-12001, paragraphs 12 and 13 for the current year in the school  
22 district.

23 4. A consolidation plan to include:

24 (a) The proposed boundary changes.

25 (b) The impact of the proposed boundary changes, including where  
26 pupils will attend school, changes in pupil transportation services,  
27 changes in availability of special education services, changes in  
28 pupil-teacher ratio and operational costs.

29 (c) If subsection P of this section applies to one or more of the  
30 existing school districts, a detailed description of desegregation funding  
31 and expenses for the resulting school district as set forth in subsection  
32 P of this section.

33 (d) Any other information the county school superintendent deems  
34 appropriate to include.

35 E. Ballots shall be prepared by the county school superintendent,  
36 shall be delivered to the inspector at least forty-eight hours before the  
37 opening of the polls as prescribed in section 16-509 and shall contain the  
38 information prescribed in subsection D, paragraph 3 of this section and  
39 the following statement: "Consolidation includes the assumption of  
40 liability by the resulting school district for all indebtedness of  
41 existing school districts or those parts of school districts proposed for  
42 consolidation. Do you support consolidation under the specified  
43 provisions of the consolidation plan? Yes ( ) No ( )." If the election  
44 is to simultaneously consolidate and unify two or more common school

1 districts, the ballot shall contain: "Do you support the consolidation of  
2 the (insert names of common school districts) and the subsequent  
3 unification of the consolidated districts with the (insert name of union  
4 high school district) to form one unified school district under the  
5 consolidation and unification plan? Yes ( ) No ( )."

6 F. The county school superintendent shall hold the election during  
7 the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year consolidation is proposed to be  
8 effective on a date prescribed by section 16-204. The election shall be  
9 held in the manner and electors shall possess qualifications as prescribed  
10 for the election of governing board members. The results of the election  
11 shall be reported to the county school superintendent.

12 G. The county school superintendent and the chairman of the board  
13 of supervisors, on the seventh day after the election, shall canvass the  
14 vote. If a majority of the votes cast in each district approved the  
15 consolidation, the districts are consolidated and become one district from  
16 and after June 30 next following the election. If parts of two or more  
17 school districts are proposed to be consolidated, a majority of the voters  
18 in the part of a school district or districts not affected by the proposed  
19 consolidation and a majority of the voters in the part of the school  
20 district or districts proposed for consolidation must approve the  
21 consolidation.

22 H. If a school district provides only financing for pupils who are  
23 instructed by another school district in the same county or in an adjacent  
24 county, the school district or any part of the school district may be  
25 consolidated with the school district providing the instructional program  
26 as follows:

27 1. The governing board of the financing school district approves  
28 the consolidation or ten percent of the qualified electors residing in the  
29 school district, or that part of the school district proposed for  
30 consolidation, petitions the county school superintendent to call an  
31 election to approve the proposed consolidation.

32 ~~2. The governing board of the school district providing instruction~~  
33 ~~approves the consolidation.~~

34 ~~3. 2.~~ At an election called by the county school superintendent of  
35 each of the counties affected, a majority of the persons voting in the  
36 school district, or that part of the school district providing financing,  
37 approve the proposed consolidation and a majority of the persons voting in  
38 the district providing instruction approve the proposed consolidation.

39 I. Elections held as provided in subsection H of this section shall  
40 be conducted in the same manner as elections prescribed in subsections C  
41 through G of this section and shall be held concurrently as prescribed in  
42 section 15-458.

43 J. If the consolidated district includes territory located in two  
44 or more counties, the county of jurisdiction is the county in which the

1 largest number of qualified electors of the consolidated school district  
2 resides, except that if all of the existing school buildings are in one  
3 county, that county is the county of jurisdiction. The county school  
4 superintendent of the jurisdictional county shall perform all duties for  
5 and with respect to the consolidated school district as required to be  
6 performed by county school superintendents. The board of supervisors of  
7 the jurisdictional county shall perform all duties for and with respect to  
8 the consolidated school district as required to be performed by boards of  
9 supervisors, except that school district taxes to be levied on property in  
10 the portion of the consolidated school district lying in another county  
11 shall be levied by the board of supervisors of the other county or  
12 counties and on receipt shall be transferred to the county of  
13 jurisdiction. All school buildings located within the consolidated school  
14 district, together with all equipment and furnishings, become the property  
15 of the consolidated school district. Any assumed indebtedness is an  
16 indebtedness of the consolidated school district for the purpose of  
17 determining the debt incurring authority of the consolidated school  
18 district.

19 K. Sections 15-457, 15-975 and 15-997 apply to school districts  
20 that are consolidated as provided in subsection H of this section.

21 L. Consolidation pursuant to this section is not allowed if the  
22 resulting school district would have a student count for the current year  
23 of more than ten percent of the total student count of all school  
24 districts in this state.

25 M. The governing board is constituted, may conduct meetings and  
26 shall prepare policies, curricula and budgets for the new school district  
27 after the canvass pursuant to subsection G of this section demonstrates  
28 that a majority of the votes cast in each school district approved the  
29 consolidation. These policies shall require that:

30 1. The base salary and benefits of each employee for the first year  
31 of operation of the new school district shall not be lower than the  
32 employee's base salary and benefits for the prior year in the previously  
33 existing school district.

34 2. The employee's years of employment in the previously existing  
35 school district shall be included in determining the employee's years of  
36 employment in the new school district. An employee who was entitled to  
37 continuing employment contract status in the previously existing school  
38 district is entitled to continuing employment contract status in the new  
39 school district.

40 3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection and  
41 pursuant to section 15-544, nothing in this section shall be construed to  
42 restrict the ability of the governing board to implement a reduction in  
43 force or to scale back salaries of certified teachers, administrators or  
44 noncertificated employees for reasons of economy or to improve the

1 efficient conduct of schools within the district following a school  
2 district consolidation.

3 N. If all of the districts to be consolidated have authorization  
4 for an override as provided in section 15-481 that would have continued  
5 after the consolidation, the override authorization continues for the new  
6 district and expires at the time that the earliest override would have  
7 expired.

8 O. If one or more, but not all, of the districts to be consolidated  
9 have authorization for an override as provided in section 15-481 that  
10 would have continued after the consolidation, the override authorization  
11 shall only apply to the schools included under the terms of the prior  
12 override authorization. Consolidation of school districts does not  
13 consolidate or pool the liability to be taxed for the override, and only  
14 property that was located within the boundaries of the district that  
15 approved the override prior to consolidation is to pay taxes to support  
16 the override. This subsection also applies if all of the districts to be  
17 consolidated have authorization for overrides, but the authorizations are  
18 pursuant to different subsections of section 15-481 or the override  
19 amounts are not the same percentage of the revenue control limit.

20 P. Notwithstanding section 15-457, consolidation of school  
21 districts does not consolidate or pool the liability of the former school  
22 districts into the resulting school district. Outstanding indebtedness  
23 incurred by a school district before consolidation shall be repaid without  
24 interruption according to existing debt schedules as determined by the  
25 county board of supervisors. If a school district consolidates after July  
26 1, 2004, the new school district may pay tuition to the district of  
27 attendance when a pupil is precluded by distance or lack of transportation  
28 from attending school in the district of a pupil's residence.

29 Q. If one or more of the previously existing school districts were  
30 authorized to budget for expenses of complying with or continuing to  
31 implement activities that were required or permitted by court order of  
32 desegregation or administrative agreement with the United States  
33 department of education office for civil rights directed toward  
34 remediating alleged or proven racial discrimination pursuant to section  
35 15-910, this authorization does not expire on the effective date of  
36 consolidation but only applies to schools included in the court order or  
37 administrative agreement.

38 R. If the formation of a new consolidated and unified school  
39 district is authorized, the terms of the governing board members of the  
40 common and union high school districts do not expire on the effective date  
41 of the unification. The governing board members of the previously  
42 existing school districts shall serve as provided in section 15-430,  
43 except that the power of the governing board members of the previously  
44 existing school districts acting as the governing board of the unified

1 school district is limited to the maintenance and operation of the  
2 previously existing school districts and compliance with the consolidation  
3 and unification plan.

4 S. IF A UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CONSOLIDATED WITH A COMMON  
5 SCHOOL DISTRICT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 7 OF THIS SECTION  
6 TO FORM A UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, ANY COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS NOT  
7 INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATION SHALL BECOME A COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
8 IS NOT WITHIN A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 15-951.  
9 THE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ADMIT HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS WHO RESIDE IN A  
10 COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT WAS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE  
11 FORMER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PAY  
12 TUITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15-824 AND SUBJECT  
13 TO SECTION 15-448, SUBSECTION J.

14 Sec. 2. Section 15-459, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by  
15 section 1 of this act, is amended to read:

16 15-459. Consolidation of districts; petition; election;  
17 notice; report; ballots; canvass of votes;  
18 governing board

19 A. On the request of the governing boards of two or more school  
20 districts in the same county or in adjacent counties or on receipt of  
21 petitions bearing the signatures of ten percent or more of the number of  
22 qualified electors who voted in whichever of the last two general  
23 elections resulted in the higher number of ballots cast and who reside in  
24 each of two or more school districts in the same county or in adjacent  
25 counties to consolidate the school districts or parts of the districts,  
26 the county school superintendent of each of the counties affected, within  
27 ten days, shall call an election to determine the question on  
28 consolidation.

29 B. Consolidations allowed pursuant to subsection A of this section  
30 include:

31 1. To change the boundaries of a school district to include any  
32 part of an adjacent school district.

33 2. If all the common school districts within the boundaries of an  
34 existing union high school district desire to consolidate into one common  
35 school district.

36 3. If two or more adjacent school districts of like character,  
37 either common, high or unified school districts, desire to consolidate  
38 into one common, high or unified school district.

39 4. If a common school district that is not a part of a union high  
40 school district desires to consolidate with an adjacent unified school  
41 district.

42 5. If two or more common school districts desire to consolidate  
43 into one school district and unify the consolidated district with a union  
44 high school district to form one unified school district.

1           6. To change the boundaries of a school district that has received  
2 a letter grade of A or B pursuant to section 15-241 to include another  
3 school district within twenty miles.

4           ~~7. If a common school district that is part of a union high school~~  
5 ~~district made up of two or fewer common school districts desires to~~  
6 ~~consolidate with that union high school district.~~

7           C. Notice of the election to determine consolidation of school  
8 districts shall be posted in not less than three public places in each of  
9 the school districts proposed to be consolidated at least twenty-five days  
10 before the election.

11           D. The county school superintendent shall prepare and the governing  
12 board shall distribute a report on the proposed boundary changes in a  
13 manner similar to that prescribed in section 15-481, subsection B. The  
14 report shall contain the following information:

15           1. The date of the election.

16           2. The polling places and times they are open.

17           3. The full cash value, the assessed valuation and the estimated  
18 amount of the primary property taxes and the estimated amount of the  
19 secondary property taxes under the proposed boundary changes for each of  
20 the following:

21           (a) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is the  
22 average assessed valuation of property classified as class three, as  
23 prescribed by section 42-12003 for the current year in the school  
24 district.

25           (b) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is  
26 one-half of the assessed valuation of the residence in subdivision (a) of  
27 this paragraph.

28           (c) An owner-occupied residence whose assessed valuation is twice  
29 the assessed valuation of the residence in subdivision (a) of this  
30 paragraph.

31           (d) A business whose assessed valuation is the average of the  
32 assessed valuation of property classified as class one, as prescribed by  
33 section 42-12001, paragraphs 12 and 13 for the current year in the school  
34 district.

35           4. A consolidation plan to include:

36           (a) The proposed boundary changes.

37           (b) The impact of the proposed boundary changes, including where  
38 pupils will attend school, changes in pupil transportation services,  
39 changes in availability of special education services, changes in  
40 pupil-teacher ratio and operational costs.

41           (c) If subsection P of this section applies to one or more of the  
42 existing school districts, a detailed description of desegregation funding  
43 and expenses for the resulting school district as set forth in subsection  
44 P of this section.

1 (d) Any other information the county school superintendent deems  
2 appropriate to include.

3 E. Ballots shall be prepared by the county school superintendent,  
4 shall be delivered to the inspector at least forty-eight hours before the  
5 opening of the polls as prescribed in section 16-509 and shall contain the  
6 information prescribed in subsection D, paragraph 3 of this section and  
7 the following statement: "Consolidation includes the assumption of  
8 liability by the resulting school district for all indebtedness of  
9 existing school districts or those parts of school districts proposed for  
10 consolidation. Do you support consolidation under the specified provisions  
11 of the consolidation plan? Yes ( ) No ( )." If the election is to  
12 simultaneously consolidate and unify two or more common school districts,  
13 the ballot shall contain: "Do you support the consolidation of the  
14 (insert names of common school districts) and the subsequent unification  
15 of the consolidated districts with the (insert name of union high school  
16 district) to form one unified school district under the consolidation and  
17 unification plan? Yes ( ) No ( )."

18 F. The county school superintendent shall hold the election during  
19 the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year consolidation is proposed to be  
20 effective on a date prescribed by section 16-204. The election shall be  
21 held in the manner and electors shall possess qualifications as prescribed  
22 for the election of governing board members. The results of the election  
23 shall be reported to the county school superintendent.

24 G. The county school superintendent and the chairman of the board  
25 of supervisors, on the seventh day after the election, shall canvass the  
26 vote. If a majority of the votes cast in each district approved the  
27 consolidation, the districts are consolidated and become one district from  
28 and after June 30 next following the election. If parts of two or more  
29 school districts are proposed to be consolidated, a majority of the voters  
30 in the part of a school district or districts not affected by the proposed  
31 consolidation and a majority of the voters in the part of the school  
32 district or districts proposed for consolidation must approve the  
33 consolidation.

34 H. If a school district provides only financing for pupils who are  
35 instructed by another school district in the same county or in an adjacent  
36 county, the school district or any part of the school district may be  
37 consolidated with the school district providing the instructional program  
38 as follows:

39 1. The governing board of the financing school district approves  
40 the consolidation or ten percent of the qualified electors residing in the  
41 school district, or that part of the school district proposed for  
42 consolidation, petitions the county school superintendent to call an  
43 election to approve the proposed consolidation.

1           2. At an election called by the county school superintendent of  
2 each of the counties affected, a majority of the persons voting in the  
3 school district, or that part of the school district providing financing,  
4 approve the proposed consolidation and a majority of the persons voting in  
5 the district providing instruction approve the proposed consolidation.

6           I. Elections held as provided in subsection H of this section shall  
7 be conducted in the same manner as elections prescribed in subsections C  
8 through G of this section and shall be held concurrently as prescribed in  
9 section 15-458.

10           J. If the consolidated district includes territory located in two  
11 or more counties, the county of jurisdiction is the county in which the  
12 largest number of qualified electors of the consolidated school district  
13 resides, except that if all of the existing school buildings are in one  
14 county, that county is the county of jurisdiction. The county school  
15 superintendent of the jurisdictional county shall perform all duties for  
16 and with respect to the consolidated school district as required to be  
17 performed by county school superintendents. The board of supervisors of  
18 the jurisdictional county shall perform all duties for and with respect to  
19 the consolidated school district as required to be performed by boards of  
20 supervisors, except that school district taxes to be levied on property in  
21 the portion of the consolidated school district lying in another county  
22 shall be levied by the board of supervisors of the other county or  
23 counties and on receipt shall be transferred to the county of  
24 jurisdiction. All school buildings located within the consolidated school  
25 district, together with all equipment and furnishings, become the property  
26 of the consolidated school district. Any assumed indebtedness is an  
27 indebtedness of the consolidated school district for the purpose of  
28 determining the debt incurring authority of the consolidated school  
29 district.

30           K. Sections 15-457, 15-975 and 15-997 apply to school districts  
31 that are consolidated as provided in subsection H of this section.

32           L. Consolidation pursuant to this section is not allowed if the  
33 resulting school district would have a student count for the current year  
34 of more than ten percent of the total student count of all school  
35 districts in this state.

36           M. The governing board is constituted, may conduct meetings and  
37 shall prepare policies, curricula and budgets for the new school district  
38 after the canvass pursuant to subsection G of this section demonstrates  
39 that a majority of the votes cast in each school district approved the  
40 consolidation. These policies shall require that:

41           1. The base salary and benefits of each employee for the first year  
42 of operation of the new school district shall not be lower than the  
43 employee's base salary and benefits for the prior year in the previously  
44 existing school district.

1           2. The employee's years of employment in the previously existing  
2 school district shall be included in determining the employee's years of  
3 employment in the new school district. An employee who was entitled to  
4 continuing employment contract status in the previously existing school  
5 district is entitled to continuing employment contract status in the new  
6 school district.

7           3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection and  
8 pursuant to section 15-544, nothing in this section shall be construed to  
9 restrict the ability of the governing board to implement a reduction in  
10 force or to scale back salaries of certified teachers, administrators or  
11 noncertificated employees for reasons of economy or to improve the  
12 efficient conduct of schools within the district following a school  
13 district consolidation.

14           N. If all of the districts to be consolidated have authorization  
15 for an override as provided in section 15-481 that would have continued  
16 after the consolidation, the override authorization continues for the new  
17 district and expires at the time that the earliest override would have  
18 expired.

19           O. If one or more, but not all, of the districts to be consolidated  
20 have authorization for an override as provided in section 15-481 that  
21 would have continued after the consolidation, the override authorization  
22 shall only apply to the schools included under the terms of the prior  
23 override authorization. Consolidation of school districts does not  
24 consolidate or pool the liability to be taxed for the override, and only  
25 property that was located within the boundaries of the district that  
26 approved the override prior to consolidation is to pay taxes to support  
27 the override. This subsection also applies if all of the districts to be  
28 consolidated have authorization for overrides, but the authorizations are  
29 pursuant to different subsections of section 15-481 or the override  
30 amounts are not the same percentage of the revenue control limit.

31           P. Notwithstanding section 15-457, consolidation of school  
32 districts does not consolidate or pool the liability of the former school  
33 districts into the resulting school district. Outstanding indebtedness  
34 incurred by a school district before consolidation shall be repaid without  
35 interruption according to existing debt schedules as determined by the  
36 county board of supervisors. If a school district consolidates after July  
37 1, 2004, the new school district may pay tuition to the district of  
38 attendance when a pupil is precluded by distance or lack of transportation  
39 from attending school in the district of a pupil's residence.

40           Q. If one or more of the previously existing school districts were  
41 authorized to budget for expenses of complying with or continuing to  
42 implement activities that were required or permitted by court order of  
43 desegregation or administrative agreement with the United States  
44 department of education office for civil rights directed toward

1 remediating alleged or proven racial discrimination pursuant to section  
2 15-910, this authorization does not expire on the effective date of  
3 consolidation but only applies to schools included in the court order or  
4 administrative agreement.

5 R. If the formation of a new consolidated and unified school  
6 district is authorized, the terms of the governing board members of the  
7 common and union high school districts do not expire on the effective date  
8 of the unification. The governing board members of the previously  
9 existing school districts shall serve as provided in section 15-430,  
10 except that the power of the governing board members of the previously  
11 existing school districts acting as the governing board of the unified  
12 school district is limited to the maintenance and operation of the  
13 previously existing school districts and compliance with the consolidation  
14 and unification plan.

15 ~~S. If a union high school district is consolidated with a common  
16 school district as provided in subsection B, paragraph 7 of this section  
17 to form a unified school district, any common school district that is not  
18 included in the consolidation shall become a common school district that  
19 is not within a high school district and is subject to section 15-951.  
20 The unified school district shall admit high school pupils who reside in a  
21 common school district that was located within the boundaries of the  
22 former union high school district. The common school district shall pay  
23 tuition for high school pupils as specified in section 15-824 and subject  
24 to section 15-448, subsection j.~~

25 Sec. 3. Effective date

26 Section 15-459, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of  
27 this act, is effective from and after December 31, 2020.

28 Sec. 4. Retroactivity

29 Section 15-459, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of  
30 this act, applies retroactively to from and after December 31, 2017.

**APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 16, 2018**

**FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 16, 2018**

Passed the House May 3, 2018,

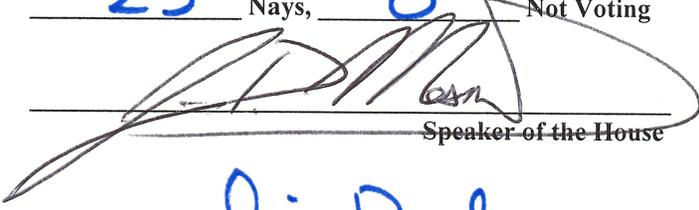
Passed the Senate February 28, 2018,

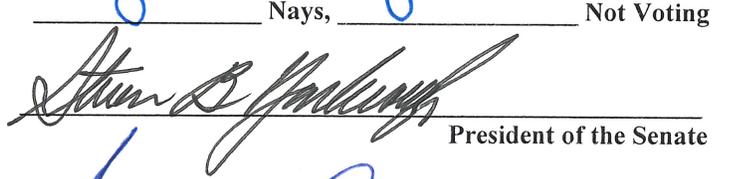
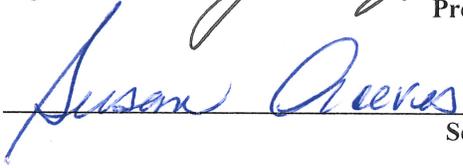
by the following vote: 35 Ayes,

by the following vote: 30 Ayes,

25 Nays, 0 Not Voting

0 Nays, 0 Not Voting

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House  
  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate  
  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR**

This Bill was received by the Governor this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of Arizona

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE**

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

S.B. 1254

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE  
AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

Passed the Senate May 3, 20 18

by the following vote: 16 Ayes,

12 Nays, 2 Not Voting

Steven P. Yarbrough  
President of the Senate

Susan Owens  
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 20 18

at 11:14 o'clock A. M.

[Signature]  
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of

May 2018

at 1:07 o'clock P. M.

Joseph R. Geney  
Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this 16 day of May, 20 18

at 4:34 o'clock P. M.

Michelle Reagan  
Secretary of State