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Arizona Administrative REGISTER

Published by the Department of State ~ Office of the Secretary of State

Arizona Administrative Register

Volume 32

Issue 17

April 24, 2026

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The authenticated pdf of the *Administrative Register* (A.A.R.) posted on the Office of the Secretary of State's website is the official published version for rulemaking activity in the state of Arizona. The *Register* is published weekly by issue number, every Friday by the Administrative Rules Division.

The *Register* is cited by volume and page number. Volumes are published by calendar year. Page numbering continues in each weekly issue.

The *Register* contains notices of docket openings, proposed, final, emergency, expedited, exempt, and terminated rules as defined in Arizona Revised Statutes known as the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Articles 1 through 10. Other "notice only" filings are published in the *Register* which includes Informal Public Meetings on an Open Rulemaking Docket, Formal Rulemaking Advisory Committees, Public Information, Oral Proceedings, Public Hearings, Public Meetings, Agency Guidance Documents, Substantive Policy Statements, Proposed Delegation Agreements, Final Delegation Agreements, and Agency Ombudsman.

ABOUT AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Rulemaking is defined in the APA. Rules can be made (all new text); amended (changed) or repealed (removed) as codified in the *Arizona Administrative Code*; or renumbered (moving rules to a different Section number). New rules published in the *Register*, whether proposed or made as a final rule, are underlined; repealed rules (text being removed), is stricken.

ABOUT THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

On the cover: Each agency is assigned a Chapter in the *Arizona Administrative Code* under a specific Title. Titles represent broad subject areas. The Title number is listed first; with the acronym A.A.C., which stands for the *Arizona Administrative Code*; following the Chapter number and Agency name, then program name. For example, the Secretary of State has rules on rulemaking in Title 1, Chapter 1 of the *Arizona Administrative Code*. The citation for this Chapter is 1 A.A.C. 1, Secretary of State, Rules and Rulemaking.

ABOUT FILE NUMBERS

Notices filed in the Division are assigned a file number. This number is enclosed in brackets and located at the top right of the published documents in the *Register*. Original filed notices are available in pdf for free. For a copy, contact our Division with the file number.

ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

The *Arizona Administrative Code* (A.A.C.) contains codified text of rules. When published, the underling and striking of text in notices as published in the *Register* are removed. The codified rules have either been approved by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council or Attorney General as prescribed under the APA. The *Code* also contains rules exempt from the rulemaking process, and emergency rules. The authenticated pdf of *Code* Chapters posted on the Office of the Secretary of State's website are the official published version of rules in the A.A.C. The *Code* is posted online for free.

Arizona Administrative **REGISTER**

April 24, 2026

Volume 32

Issue 17

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER
This publication is available online for
free at www.azsos.gov.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
The *Arizona Administrative Code* is
available online at www.azsos.gov.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES
Publication dates are published in the
back of the *Register*. These dates
include file submittal dates with a
three-week turnaround from filing to
published document.

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Participate in Rulemaking

Review Published Notices

Those interested in participating in the rulemaking process should review notices published in the *Arizona Administrative Register*.

The Preamble at the beginning of a notice contains information about the rulemaking and provides agency justification and regulatory intent. Agency contact information is published in the Preamble for those interested in participating in the rulemaking process.

The Preamble includes reference to the specific statutes authorizing the agency to make the rule, an explanation of the rule, reasons for proposing the rule, and the preliminary Economic Impact Statement.

Agency Contact Lists

Many agencies maintain stakeholder lists to contact those interested in proposed changes to rules. Check an agency's website and its newsletters for information about notices, oral proceedings, and meetings. Feel like a change should be made to a rule and an agency has not proposed changes? You can petition an agency to make, amend, or repeal a rule. The agency must respond to the petition. Refer to A.R.S. § 41-1033 for more information.

Attend a Public Meeting

Stakeholders can attend a public meeting, known as an oral proceeding, being conducted by the agency on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. A proceeding may be listed in the Preamble of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking or an agency may inform the public of the meeting in a Notice of Oral Proceeding. Attend the meeting and be prepared to speak and comment.

An agency may not have a public meeting scheduled on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. If not, you may request the agency schedule a proceeding. This request must be put in writing within 30 days after the published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Refer to information in the Preamble.

Write the Agency

Put your comments in writing and send them to the agency. In order for the agency to consider your comments, the agency must receive them by the close of record. The comment must be received within the 30-day comment timeframe following the *Register* publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

You can also submit to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council written comments that are relevant to the Council's power to review a given rule (A.R.S. § 41-1052).

The Council reviews the rule at the end of the rulemaking process, before the rules are filed with the Secretary of State.

THE REGULAR RULEMAKING PROCESS

Authority

An agency is given the authority to promulgate a rule under the APA, statute passed by the Legislature, or ballot proposition, which is passed by the voters.

An agency may be given certain exemptions to the APA or portions thereof.

Information about the exemptions are provided in the Preamble of the rulemaking.

Permission to Proceed

Before moving forward with any notice, an agency first receives permission from the governor's office to proceed with a rulemaking.

The governor's office provides the agency a written response to proceed that is filed with the notice.

Stakeholder and Public Notification

The agency opens a docket. It is filed as a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening for publication in the *Register*.

The notice includes agency contact information along with its intentions to make, amend, repeal, or renumber, a rule and its justification to perform the rulemaking action. Often an agency will file the docket with the proposed rulemaking.

An agency may decide not to proceed and not file final rule with G.R.R.C. within one year after proposed rule is published. A.R.S. § 41-1021(A)(4)

Agency Proposes Rules, Public Reviews Proposal

The agency files a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the notice is published in the *Register*.

The public is given the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules. The agency opens the comment period to last at least 30 days. Written comments are accepted informally.

The notice *may* contain information about oral proceedings.

A proceeding is held no sooner than 30 days after the notice is published.

If no proceeding is scheduled, the agency provides information on how a person may request to speak to the agency in person at an oral proceeding.

Oral Proceeding

A person requests an agency to conduct an oral proceeding based on the information provided in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

The agency prepares a Notice of Oral Proceeding on Proposed Rulemaking, schedules one or more proceeding, and files the notice for publication in the *Register*.

When it occurs, an agency extends the public comment period.

Close of Record

After evaluating public comments and conducting an internal review of the rule, an agency:

1. Determines whether the rulemaking requires a substantial change. When an agency decides to make substantial changes to a proposed rule, it continues the process as outlined under the APA. The agency obtains permission to proceed as stated under #2 of this timeline. The agency prepares a Notice of Supplemental Proposed Rulemaking with the changes and files it for publication in the *Register*. Comments are once again solicited and reviewed by the agency.
2. Prepares and submits for review a Notice of Final Rulemaking for review and approval by G.R.R.C. or Attorney General. The Notice of Final Rulemaking must be submitted for review within 120 days after the close of record; or
3. Terminates the rulemaking. The agency may decide to terminate its docket and files a notice for publication in the *Register* notifying stakeholders of the termination. Refer to A.R.S. § 41-1021(A)(2).

Time Frame for Approval or Disapproval of the Notice

G.R.R.C. has 90 days to review and approve or return the rule package, in whole or in part; A.G. has 60 days.

The Approved Rule is Published in *Register* and Codified in the Code

After approval by G.R.R.C. or A.G., the rule becomes effective 60 days after filing the notice with the Office of the Secretary of State, unless otherwise indicated in the Preamble of the notice.

The Notice of Final Rulemaking is published in the *Register* and codified in the *Arizona Administrative Code*.

Definitions and Acronyms

Arizona Administrative Code, Code (A.A.C.): Official rules codified and published by the Secretary of State's Office. Available online at www.azsos.gov.

Arizona Administrative Register, Register (A.A.R.): The official publication that includes filed documents pertaining to Arizona rulemaking. Available online at www.azsos.gov.

Administrative Procedure Act (APA): A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Articles 1 through 10. Available online at www.azleg.gov.

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.): The statutes are made by the Arizona State Legislature during a legislative session. They are compiled by Legislative Council, with the official publication codified by Thomson Reuters. Citations to statutes include Titles which represent broad subject areas. The Title number is followed by the Section number. For example, A.R.S. § 41-1001 is the definitions Section of Title 41 of the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act. The “§” symbol simply means “section.” Available online at www.azleg.gov.

Chapter: A division in the codification of the *Code* designating a state agency or, for a large agency, a major program.

Close of Record: The close of the public record for a proposed rulemaking is the date an agency chooses as the last date it will accept public comments, either written or oral.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): The *Code of Federal Regulations* is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

Docket: A public file for each rulemaking containing materials related to the proceedings of that rulemaking. The docket file is established and maintained by an agency from the time it begins to consider making a rule until the rulemaking is finished. The agency provides public notice of the docket by filing a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening with the Office for publication in the *Register*.

Economic, Small Business, and Consumer Impact Statement (EIS): The EIS identifies the impact of the rule on private and public employment, on small businesses, and on consumers. It includes an analysis of the probable costs and benefits of the rule. An agency includes a brief summary of the EIS in its preamble. The EIS is not published in the *Register* but is available from the agency promulgating the rule. The EIS is also filed with the rulemaking package.

Governor's Regulatory Review (G.R.R.C.): Reviews and approves rules to ensure that they are necessary and to avoid unnecessary duplication and adverse impact on the public. G.R.R.C. also assesses whether the rules are clear, concise, understandable, legal, consistent with legislative intent, and whether the benefits of a rule outweigh the cost.

Incorporated by Reference: An agency may incorporate by reference standards or other publications. These standards are available from the state agency with references on where to order the standard or review it online.

Federal Register (FR): The *Federal Register* is a legal newspaper published every business day by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It contains federal agency regulations; proposed rules and notices; and executive orders, proclamations, and other presidential documents.

Session Laws or “Laws”: When an agency references a law that has not yet been codified into the Arizona Revised Statutes, use the word “Laws” is followed by the year the law was passed by the Legislature, followed by the Chapter number using the abbreviation “Ch.”, and the specific Section number using the Section symbol (§). For example, Laws 1995, Ch. 6, § 2. Session laws are available at www.azleg.gov.

United States Code (U.S.C.): The Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. The Code does not include regulations issued by executive branch agencies, decisions of the federal courts, treaties, or laws enacted by state or local governments.

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NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires an agency file a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening which outlines its rulemaking intentions under [A.R.S. § 41-1021](#). A docket opening and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are often filed at the same time and published in the same *Register* issue. If they are not filed at the same time, information on where the docket opening was published is listed in the preamble of the proposed rulemaking.

An agency must allow at least 30 days to elapse after the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the *Register* before scheduling any oral proceedings. Written public comments shall be accepted for at least 30 days after the published notice. Refer to A.R.S. §§ [41-1013](#), [41-1022](#) and [41-1023](#).

Questions about the notice can be answered by the person listed in item #5 of the preamble.

Refer to item #11 of the preamble for information on how to comment on this notice, the close of record to comment, and information related to oral proceedings.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

TITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 8. STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD

File Number: R26-51

PREAMBLE

1. **Permission to proceed with this proposed rulemaking was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:**
February 19, 2026

2. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable)	Rulemaking Action
R2-8-301	Amend
R2-8-304	Amend
R2-8-804	Amend
R2-8-807	Amend

3. **Citations to the agency's statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):**

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 38-714(E)(4)

Implementing statute: A.R.S. §§ 38-701 et seq.

4. **Citations to all related notices published in the *Register* that pertain to the current record of the proposed rule:**

Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening: 32 A.A.R. 938, April 24, 2026 (*in this issue*); File Number: R26-54

Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 2772, Issue Date: August 29, 2025, Issue Number: 35, File Number: R25-198

Notice of Termination of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 4341, Issue Date: November 14, 2025, Issue Number: 46, File Number: R25-256

5. **The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:**

Name: Jessica Thomas
Title: Government Relations Officer
Address: 3300 N. Central Ave., Suite 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Telephone: (602) 240-2039
Email: JessicaT@azasrs.gov
Website: www.azasrs.gov

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6. An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:

The ASRS needs to amend its rules to remove unnecessary definitions, clarify when a member may receive LTD benefits, clarify when a member may receive service credit while receiving LTD benefits, and how the ASRS or the ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator may collect an overpayment a forfeiture or LTD benefit. Such clarification will ensure the rules are clear, concise, and consistent and the public is aware of how the ASRS processes LTD benefits and overpayments.

7. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and proposes either to rely on or not to rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

None

8. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

Not applicable

9. The preliminary summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:

The ASRS promulgates rules that allow the agency to provide for the proper administration of the state retirement trust fund.

ASRS rules affect ASRS members and ASRS employers regarding how they contribute to, and receive benefits from, the ASRS.

The ASRS effectively administrates how public-sector employers and employees participate in the ASRS. As such, the ASRS does not issue permits or licenses, or charge fees, and its rules have little to no economic impact on private-sector businesses, with the exception of some employer partner charter schools, which have voluntarily contracted to join the ASRS. Thus, there is little to no economic, small business, or consumer impact, other than the minimal cost to the ASRS to prepare the rule package. The rule will have minimal economic impact, if any, because it merely clarifies how the ASRS shall process LTD benefits and overpayments.

10. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the economic, small business and consumer impact statement:

Name: Jessica Thomas
Title: Government Relations Officer
Address: 3300 N. Central Ave., Suite 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Telephone: (602) 240-2039
Email: JessicaT@azasrs.gov
Website: www.azasrs.gov

11. The time, place, and nature of the proceedings to make, amend, repeal, or renumber the rule, or if no proceeding is scheduled, where, when, and how persons may request an oral proceeding on the proposed rule:

The ASRS will accept comments during business hours as provided below through the end of the oral proceeding June 3, 2026. Comments will also be accepted via email at the email address provided under item #5. Mailed written comments shall be postmarked within 30 days of this published notice.

An oral proceeding regarding the proposed rules will be held as follows:

Date: June 3, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting through Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/zwi-kgdb-uqu?hs=122&authuser=0>
Join by phone: 302-404-6620; PIN: 855 820 331#

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12. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:

None

- a. **Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:**
None of the rules requires a permit.
- b. **Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:**
There are no federal laws applicable to these rules.
- c. **Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:**
No analysis was submitted.

13. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

None

14. The full text of the rules follows:

TITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 8. STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD

ARTICLE 3. LONG-TERM DISABILITY

Section

- R2-8-301. Definitions
R2-8-304. Payment of Long-Term Disability Benefit

ARTICLE 8. RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS

Section

- R2-8-804. Collection of Overpayments from Forfeiture
R2-8-807. Collection of Overpayments from LTD Benefit

ARTICLE 3. LONG-TERM DISABILITY

R2-8-301. Definitions

The following definitions apply to this Article unless otherwise specified:

1. "Attending Physician" means a provider:
 - a. Who is a qualified medical provider or other legally qualified practitioner of a healing art that the claims administrator recognizes or is required by law to recognize;
 - b. Whose medical training and clinical experience are qualified to treat the member's disabling condition;
 - c. Whose diagnosis and treatment is consistent with the diagnosis of the disabling condition, according to guidelines established by medical, research, and rehabilitative organizations;
 - d. Who is licensed to practice in the jurisdiction where care is being given;
 - e. Who is practicing within the scope of the license; and
 - f. Who is not related to the member by blood or marriage.
2. "Direct Care" means the member is actively receiving treatment from a provider for the member's disability at least once per calendar year.
3. ~~"Estimated Social Security disability income amount" means the same as in R2-8-801(1).~~
- 4.3. "Legal proceeding" means an appeal of an appealable agency decision at the Office of Administrative Hearings pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092 et seq. or an appeal of a Social Security determination at the Social Security Administration, or any other review by a formal body, which determines the rights and responsibilities of the member or survivor.
- 5.4. "LTD" means the Long-Term Disability program described in A.R.S. § 38-797 et seq.
- 6.5. "LTD benefit" means the amount of funds the member receives from the ASRS or the ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator, for the period of time a member has an eligible disability as described in A.R.S. § 38-797.07(A)(11).

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7.6. "LTD contribution" means the amount of funds the member remits to the ASRS from the member's compensation as payment for the LTD program.

R2-8-304. Payment of Long-Term Disability Benefit

- ~~A.~~ An eligible disabled member is eligible to receive an LTD benefit on the member's benefits effective date, which is the first day of the month following the month in which the member has been disabled for a period of six months, based on the date the member became disabled.
- ~~A.B.~~ The ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator shall begin providing an LTD benefit to an eligible disabled member no sooner than the member's benefits effective date six months after the date the disabled member became disabled.
- ~~B.C.~~ Notwithstanding subsection (A), the ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator may begin providing an LTD benefit to an eligible disabled member sooner than six months if the disability is related to the member's disability that occurred within six months immediately preceding the disability.
- ~~C.~~ The ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator may provide an eligible disabled member's LTD benefit to a third party pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-797.09.
- D. Notwithstanding any other Section, a member may receive Long-Term disability benefits for no more than 12 months after the member receives a required minimum distribution of the member's retirement benefit pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-775.
- ~~E.~~ Unless a member is accruing service credit under R2-8-903, a member shall receive service credit for each month for which the ASRS provides an LTD benefit to an eligible disabled member.

ARTICLE 8. RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS

R2-8-804. Collection of Overpayments from Forfeiture

- ~~A.~~ Unless a member cancels a forfeiture request by submitting written notice to the ASRS within 30 days of the request to forfeit, the ASRS shall reduce a member's refund amount in order to offset the member's overpayment amount pursuant to subsection (B).
- ~~B.~~ The ASRS shall reduce the member's refund amount by the amount of any overpayment and the ASRS shall:
 - 1. Pursue collection of any remaining overpayment amount pursuant to this Article; and
 - 2. Distribute the remaining refund amount to the member pursuant to R2-8-115.

R2-8-807. Collection of Overpayments from LTD Benefit

Upon disability of the member, the ASRS or the ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator shall reduce the amount of the disabled member's LTD benefit by the amount of any overpayment the member received from the ASRS and has not reimbursed pursuant to this Section.

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NOTICES OF FINAL RULEMAKING

An agency shall submit a Notice of Final Rulemaking to the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council (Council) or Attorney General for review within 120 days after the close of the record on a proposed rulemaking, and if applicable, supplemental proposed rulemaking, under [A.R.S. § 41-1024](#).

The Notice of Final Rulemaking as published in this section has been filed with a certificate of approval from the Council or Attorney General.

An economic, small business and consumer impact statement is filed with this notice but not published in the *Register*.

The effective date of this notice is published in item #4 of the preamble.

Questions about the notice can be answered by the person listed in item #6 of the preamble.

The codified version of Notices of Final Rulemaking are published in the *Arizona Administrative Code* by title and chapter.

NOTICES OF FINAL RULEMAKING

TITLE 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAPTER 13. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – SCHOOL BUSES

File Number: R26-52

PREAMBLE

- 1. Permission to proceed with this final rulemaking was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:**
May 22, 2025 and February 13, 2026

2. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable)	Rulemaking Action
Article 3	New Article
R13-13-301	New Section
R13-13-302	New Section
R13-13-303	New Section
R13-13-304	New Section

- 3. Citations to the agency’s statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):**

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 41-1713(A)(4)

Implementing statute: A.R.S. §§ 15-925; 28-900(B)(4), (5), (6), (7), (C); 28-3228(A), (C)(1), (2), (4)(b.); 28-101(69)

- 4. The effective date of the rule:**

April 8, 2026 (*immediately upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State*)

- a. If the agency selected a date earlier than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the earlier date and state the reason the agency selected the earlier effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A)(1) through (5):**

The Department is requesting an immediate effective date according to A.R.S. 41-1032(A)(1).

In January and March of 2025, the Department filed with the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council briefs stating the public safety condition for an exigence circumstance Substantive Policy Statement. The Department provided testimony on the impact of non-conforming 11 to 15 passenger vehicles used as a school bus including examples of fatality and serious injury collisions with non-conforming vehicles being used for school transportation within Arizona. The Department provided testimony that it has encountered vehicles not certified by the manufacturer for school bus operations in use at some schools. Additionally, the Department testified its inability to certify drivers of these vehicles, including driving tests, physical ability tests, medical tests, drug screens and identity-verified background checks. This includes the inability to cancel or suspend a driver for violations of traffic law or other criminal law.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services issued a position paper supporting the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) findings and its own recommendations on how non-conforming 11 to 15 passenger vehicles pose a safety risk for student transportation. *Non-conforming Vans Used for*

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School Transportation, December 4, 2017.

When a functioning Student Transportation Advisory Council (STAC) was appointed in 2025, the STAC and the Department engaged in the rulemaking process to address this public safety concern. Multiple public meetings were held on these rules. Schools have been aware of the pending rulemaking since 2022.

On January 14, 2026, the STAC conducted an open public meeting regarding an immediately effective date or retaining the standard effective time period. The STAC concurred with the Department these rules should be made immediately effective due to the compelling and critical public safety issues.

- b. **If the agency selected a date later than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the later date and state the reason the agency selected the later effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(B):**

Not applicable

5. **Citations to all related notices published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the current record of the final rule:**

Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening: 31 A.A.R. 1909; Issue Date: June 13, 2025; Issue Number: 24; File Number: R25-117

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 4479; Issue Date: December 5, 2025; Issue Number: 49; File Number: R25-269

6. **The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:**

Name: William Lunt, Sergeant for school bus inspections.
Kimberly Thomas, Supervisor for driver certification.

Division: Highway Patrol

Address: P.O. Box 6638, Maildrop (select from below), Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638
For school bus inspections use Maildrop code 3002.
For driver certification use Maildrop code 3150.

Telephone: For school bus inspections: (602) 206-5093
For driver certification: (602) 223-2646

Email: For Sergeant Lunt: wlunt@azdps.gov
For Supervisor Thomas: kthomas@azdps.gov

Website: www.azdps.gov

7. **An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:**

These new rules protect public safety, specifically the safety of children and other riders of school buses by setting minimum safety and certification standards for 11-to-15 passenger school bus vehicles and drivers in a manner similar to other regulated school buses.

According to A.R.S. §§ 15-925, 28-900, 28-3053 and 28-3228, the STAC and the Department of Public Safety conduct rulemakings on this chapter in consultation with each other.

The Department is adopting safety rules in compliance with state law enacted by the Fifty-fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session, 2022, Chapter 290, Senate Bill 1630, amending sections 15-383, 15-746, 15-922, 15-945, 28-900, 28-3053 and 28-3228, and adding 15-925 and was approved by the Governor June 13, 2022 and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State June 13, 2022.

The STAC and the Department intend to create a new Article 3 to address A.R.S. § 15-925. The law requires the Department to adopt new safety-related rules to regulate 11-to-15 passenger school bus vehicles and the associated drivers which transport students at a public school, charter/private school or by a privately-owned and operated entity contracted to transport students. Additionally, it sets the minimum standards for the periodic inspection, maintenance and operation of these motor vehicles used to transport students, the minimum certification standards for drivers as well as other criteria as deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure the safe operation of these vehicles.

These 11-to-15 passenger vehicles are defined as a school bus according to 49 CFR 571.3 and A.R.S. § 28-101(69). The Department intends to prohibit the use of non-conforming vans/vehicles and authorize conforming school buses and other allowable alternate vehicles with modifications which would meet school bus safety specifications.

The Department intends for the drivers to meet minimum standards mostly equivalent to that of other school bus driv-

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ers. The driver is responsible for the children and is often the only adult on board with the children. Should an emergency occur, the driver should have the training to handle the situation and the physical ability to remove children, including special-needs children from harm should a collision or other incident occur.

8. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and either relied on or did not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

The Department reviewed and relied on the following studies in its evaluation and justification of the rules:

- National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, *Non-conforming Vans Used for School Transportation* dated December 4, 2017 and is available from the Association at <https://www.nasdpts.org/> or the Department.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Safety in Numbers-Tires Your Safety and Your Life are Riding on Them*, Volume 1 Issue 3 June 2013. Available from the Department.
- Safety Research & Strategies Inc. *Tire Aging and Service Life, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Tire Safety Symposium*, December 2014. Available from the Department.

9. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

This rulemaking does not diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state.

10. A summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:

The economic impact includes schools (both public and private), school bus vehicle manufacturers, state government, student/parents and other riders of school buses, taxpayers/tuition payers and contracted third-party student transportation providers.

Schools will have an estimated cost of \$117,000 per new vehicle depending on manufacturer and options for a Type A school bus. This is a substantially higher cost than a non-conforming van (approximately \$75,000 depending on manufacturer and options) that does not meet school bus crash worthiness standards in 49 CFR 571.222. However, the cost of a Type A is between \$50,000 to \$100,000 less (depending on manufacturer and options) than a Type C (conventional) school bus. The rules and the Department do not specify a specific make and model of school bus; therefore, schools can shop different manufacturers and the used market for the best cost, design and options that fits their needs and budget.

Schools are facing a critical CDL driver shortage. Repeated recruiting, hiring and training are a significant cost burden to schools. The standards set for Class D school bus drivers increases the applicant pool and potentially lowers recruiting and training costs if retention is maintained. The overall training program is similar to that of a CDL driver but is shortened as CDL-specific training is not required. This shortened training period represents a cost savings to the schools.

Manufacturers are already producing school buses in accordance with federal and state safety regulations. As the manufacturers are intimately familiar with these regulations and the Department is not imposing any significant burdens beyond that of a traditional school bus, the cost is expected to be minimal. The allowance of these new vehicles diversifies the product line manufacturers can potentially sell to schools.

The Department does not expect any new FTEs to implement these rules. The inspection of these vehicles is not fundamentally different than Type C (conventional) school buses. However, if the overall statewide school fleet expands to the point where Department inspectors cannot physically inspect every school bus within the calendar year, more inspectors may be necessary in the future. The Department has adjusted its operations by hiring civilian inspectors at a lower cost in addition to using state troopers. The Department's Student Transportation Unit will be able to handle the new influx of driver certifications with current staff on hand. However, legacy computerized database systems are not easily configurable to track and monitor these certifications so there is still a manual process involved. The Department is exploring options for an upgraded computerized system however it is not currently funded.

Students and parents are impacted. With schools facing CDL driver shortages, some school bus routes have been amended or cancelled. This requires parents to source their own transportation to get their kid to and from school. More of these new school bus drivers may allow the schools to reopen or improve school bus routes alleviating the significant cost and time burden on parents. Most importantly, parents will be reassured the vehicle and the driver they are trusting to transport their child to and from school meets the best practical safety standards possible.

Taxpayers and private tuition payers who fund the schools will be impacted. As previously mentioned, these school buses have a lower purchase cost, lower operating cost than Type C (traditional) school buses and retention of drivers/larger applicant pool of Class D licensed drivers may lower attrition and retraining costs.

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Contracted third-party student transportation providers will be impacted. Some school districts have opted for various economic or operational reasons to contract out their transportation needs to a third party. These rules will allow those contracted third-party providers to offer a new form of transportation that may reduce costs to both the contractor and the school. As with the schools, contractors can also take advantage of the larger hiring pool of Class D licensed drivers.

11. A description of any changes between the proposed rulemaking, to include supplemental notices, and the final rulemaking:

Not applicable

12. An agency's summary of the public or stakeholder comments made about the rulemaking and the agency response to the comments:

The STAC according to A.R.S. § 28-3053 conducted an open public hearing on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the Economic, Small Business and Consumer Impact Statement on October 8, 2025. The STAC conducted an open public hearing on an immediate implementation date for the Notice of Final Rulemaking on January 14, 2026. The Department conducted an open public hearing according to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on January 21, 2026. There were no public attendees and no comments were received by the close of the record. All documents were voted on and passed unanimously by the STAC. The STAC agendas and meeting minutes are included with this rulemaking package.

13. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:

The STAC finalized consultation with the Department on adoption of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the Economic, Small Business and Consumer Impact Statement at the STAC's October 8, 2025 public meeting and the Notice of Final Rulemaking at the STAC's January 14, 2026 public meeting as documented in the Council's meeting minutes according to A.R.S. §§ 15-925, 28-900(A), (B)(1), (7), 28-3228(C) and 28-3053(C)(3), (4), (5), (6), (7). Additionally, the STAC consulted with the Department at their August 13 and September 3, 2025 meetings.

According to A.R.S. § 28-900(C), the Department may adopt minimum standards more restrictive than those adopted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. In this rulemaking, the Department has not adopted more restrictive rules.

a. Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:

The rules require a certification permit for both the vehicle and the driver. A general permit for the vehicle cannot be issued as the wear and condition of a single vehicle is not representative of a fleet of vehicles which receive different exposure, wear and use. A general permit for drivers cannot be issued as each driver is statutorily required to have a background check, physical, knowledge and other tests to perform the job. Therefore, the status and capabilities of a single driver cannot be applied to a fleet of drivers.

b. Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:

The following federal laws are applicable, and the rules are not more stringent than the federal laws. The Department does have statutory authority to be more stringent than federal law according to A.R.S. § 28-900(C) but has not exercised this provision.

- Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) 49 CFR 571.3 defines a multifunction school activity bus.
- FMVSS 49 CFR 571.222 sets seating and crash protection requirements.
- FMVSS 49 CFR 393.75 sets standards for tires and wheels.

c. Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:

Not applicable

14. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

- 49 CFR 571.3 in Section 301.
- 49 CFR 571.222 in Section 302(B)(1).
- 49 CFR 393.75 in Section 302(B)(2)(a).
- National Congress on School Transportation, *National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures* dated May 2025 in Section 302(B)(3)(a).

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15. Whether the rule was previously made, amended or repealed as an emergency rule. If so, cite the notice published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A). Also, the agency shall state where the text was changed between the emergency and the final rulemaking packages:

Not applicable

16. The full text of the rules follows:

TITLE 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAPTER 13. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – SCHOOL BUSES

ARTICLE 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR 11 TO 15 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER VEHICLES

Section

R13-13-301. Definitions

R13-13-302. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Equipment

R13-13-303. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Operation

R13-13-304. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Drivers and Instructors

ARTICLE 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR 11 TO 15 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PASSENGER VEHICLES

R13-13-301. Definitions

In addition to the definitions in R13-13-101, in this Article and unless otherwise specified:

“925 Driver” means a driver certified to only drive a 925 Vehicle certified under this Article and A.R.S. § 15-925.

“925 Vehicle” means any type or model of vehicle that is designed to carry at least 11 but not more than 15 passengers according to A.R.S. § 15-925 is designated as a school bus but it is not a Type A or Type B school bus as defined in R13-13-101.

“Class D driver license” means the same as in A.R.S. § 28-3101(A)(4).

“Designed to Carry” means the total number of seats the manufacturer designed and built the body of the vehicle to transport persons and does not mean the total number of seats in place.

“Primary Roadway” means any roadway with a speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour.

“Multifunction School Activity Bus” (MFSAB) means the same as in 49 CFR 571.3 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department.

R13-13-302. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Equipment

A. A Type A or Type B school bus shall comply with R13-13-106 through R13-13-112 with the following exceptions:

1. Any Type A or Type B MFSAB in service prior to July 1, 2025 that is painted any shade of white may be used as a school bus up to but not beyond July 1, 2027, if equipped with the following:
 - a. An eight lamp alternately flashing signal lamps as specified in R13-13-107(17).
 - b. A stop signal arm as specified in R13-13-107(31).
2. The removal of seats to meet the requirements of a 925 Vehicle is prohibited and does not reclassify the vehicle to one that would qualify as a 925 Vehicle.
3. Any Type A or B MFSAB retrofitted under this section shall be inspected by the Department in accordance with R13-13-108.

B. 925 Vehicle Standards.

1. Certification, Seating and Crash Protection:
 - a. Shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR 571.222 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department;
 - b. Vehicles with labels affixed by the manufacturer stating *Not A School Bus* or that have similar language indicating the vehicle is not certified for use as a school bus are prohibited. Removing, relocating, altering or defacing any certification, compliance or advisory label or plate affixed by the manufacturer is prohibited;
 - c. Shall have seatbelts installed and functioning in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications;
 - d. The removal of seats from a vehicle to meet the requirements of a 925 Vehicle is prohibited and does not reclassify the vehicle to one that would qualify as a 925 Vehicle; and,
 - e. The manufacturer shall permanently apply a certification label or plate stating the rated occupancy the vehicle is designed to carry in terms of the driver and number of passengers. Removing, relocating, altering or defacing any certification label or plate affixed by the manufacturer is prohibited.
2. Tires and Wheels.

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- a. Shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR 393.75 dated September 29, 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the federal government at <https://www.ecfr.gov/> and the Department.
 - b. Shall not have tires including the spare tire over six years old from the date of manufacture marked on the tire.
 - c. Shall be of the same brand and model including spare tires.
 - d. May be equipped with a spare tire. If equipped, the spare tire shall be mounted as designed by the manufacturer.
3. Color and Markings:
- a. Shall be painted National School Bus Yellow as specified in the National Congress on School Transportation, National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures dated May 2025, incorporated by reference, and does not include any later amendments or editions and is available from the National Congress on School Transportation at <https://nasdpts.org/NCST-NSTSP> and the Department.
 - b. The exterior top may be painted white to reflect heat.
 - c. Shall have a reflective strip at least four inches tall of alternating white and yellow two-inch stripes set at a 45° angle that stretches across the lower rear of the vehicle and terminating no more than four inches from the outside edges of the vehicle.
 - d. Shall have on both sides of the vehicle the name of the school or the name of the private company in a minimum of three-inch up to five-inch block, black letters.
 - e. Shall have on the rear of the vehicle the lettering *STUDENT TRANSPORTATION* in a minimum three-inch up to five-inch block, black letters.
 - f. Shall have a vehicle number displayed in a minimum three-inch up to five-inch block, black numbers in the following locations:
 - (1) On the lower left or right area of the back of the vehicle; and,
 - (2) On the left and right side of the vehicle at a point forward of the vertical centerline of the driver and front passenger doors.
4. Lighting:
- a. Shall be equipped with a high-mounted, 360-degree, amber-flashing light centered on the rear roof line that is activated by the driver at railroad grade crossings.
 - b. The light shall have a flash rate equal to or greater than the vehicle's turn signal flash rate.
 - c. The light shall meet the minimum visibility standard of stop lamps in A.R.S. § 28-939.
5. Alternative Fuels:
- a. 925 Vehicles may use alternative fuels other than diesel or gasoline.
 - b. 925 Vehicles shall comply with the requirements in Article 2 if using alternative fuels.
6. A 925 Vehicle shall be inspected and certified by the Department in accordance with R13-13-108 as applicable for the type of vehicle.

R13-13-303. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Operation

- A.** A 925 Driver shall comply with the equipment operations checks as specified in R13-13-108(D), (E), (F), (G).
- B.** Loading and unloading of passengers.
 - 1. Shall not stop on a highway, interstate or primary roadway to load or unload passengers.
 - 2. Shall stop in low-traffic volume areas with speed limits at or below 35 miles per hour; such as, residential driveways, residential roadway curb areas in front of homes and parking lots.
 - 3. When loading or unloading passengers from a 925 Vehicle, the 925 Driver shall place the vehicle in park, activate the four-way amber (hazard) flashers and activate the high-mounted flashing light specified in R13-13-302(B)(4).
 - 4. Passengers shall not load or unload on the traffic side of the vehicle.
 - 5. The 925 Driver shall comply with R13-13-104(B)(9 through (14).
 - 6. For railroad grade crossings, the 925 Driver shall comply with R13-13-104(B)(15) with the addition of a requirement to activate the high-mounted flashing light as specified in R13-13-302(B)(4). For vehicles without a service door in R13-13-104(B)(15)(d), the right front window shall be fully opened or fully rolled down.
 - 7. When loading or unloading a special needs passenger, the 925 Driver shall secure the passenger and wheelchair as specified in R13-13-105.
- C.** The 925 Driver shall comply with the time requirements as specified in R13-13-104(C).
- D.** The 925 Driver shall comply with the record-keeping and other requirements as specified in R13-13-104(D) and (E).
- E.** Seatbelts and Restraints.
 - 1. The 925 Driver shall not remove the vehicle from park until the driver and all passengers are properly wearing their seatbelts or properly restrained.

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2. All 925 Drivers and passengers shall properly wear or use all safety belts and restraints unless loading or unloading from a 925 Vehicle.

F. Doors equipped with child safety locks shall not have the lock engaged allowing the door to be opened from the inside.

R13-13-304. Minimum Standards for 11 to 15 Passenger Vehicle Drivers and Instructors

A. All 925 Drivers shall comply with and be subject to R13-13-102 and R13-13-108(D) with the exception of the following:

1. A commercial driver license (CDL) is not required unless the vehicle's gross weight requires a CDL according to A.R.S. § 28-3228(C)(4)(b);
2. An Arizona "P" passenger or "S" school bus endorsement is not required on an Arizona Class D driver license;
3. 925 Driver performance examinations for equipment not found on a 925 Vehicle may be waived by the Department or if similar functioning equipment exists the Department may require an examination depending on how the 925 Vehicle is equipped; and,
4. At a minimum a valid Arizona Class D driver license is required. The applicant shall provide an Arizona driver license number or if applying based on an equivalent or greater valid driver license from another state according to A.R.S. § 32-4302, provide the name of the state, the class of license and the license number.

B. Behind-the-wheel and classroom instructors of 925 Drivers shall comply with all of the requirements in R13-13-103. A valid CDL is required.

C. CDL Certification and Derating:

1. Drivers holding a valid CDL and a valid CDL school bus certification according to Article 1 are cross-qualified as a 925 Driver. No additional training or certification is required.
2. CDL drivers certified in Article 1 desiring to relinquish their CDL and derate their certification to only a 925 Driver may do so by notifying the Department. The notification shall:
 - a. Be made to the Department within 10 business days via electronic mail to schoolbus@azdps.gov or via postal mail Attention: Student Transportation Unit, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638.
 - b. Occur before the CDL and the requirements to maintain a CDL are relinquished; and,
 - c. Occur before the Article 1 certification expires or is cancelled due to a lack of a CDL.
3. Derated CDL Drivers:
 - a. The driver shall maintain at least a valid Class D license.
 - b. No additional training is required.
 - c. The derated CDL certification shall remain valid until the normal expiration. Upon the normal expiration, the driver shall then meet the 925 Driver certification requirements of Article 3.

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NOTICES OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

NOTICES OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

A Notice of Emergency Rulemaking prepared and filed by an agency under [A.R.S. § 41-1001\(9\)](#) and [A.R.S. § 41-1026](#).

If an agency makes a finding that a rule is necessary as an emergency measure, the rule may be made, amended, or repealed as an emergency measure, without the notice prescribed by sections 41-1021 and 41-1022 and prior review by the council, if the rule is first approved by the attorney general and filed with the secretary of state.

A rule made, amended, renumbered, or repealed is valid for 180 days after the filing of the notice with the Office.

The emergency may be renewed for an additional 180-day period if all requirements are met under [A.R.S. § 41-1026\(D\)\(1\) through \(6\)](#).

Refer to item #6 of the preamble to contact the person who can answer questions about this rulemaking.

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING (RENEWAL)

TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES

**CHAPTER 28. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS)
ARIZONA LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM**

File Number: R26-53

PREAMBLE

- 1. Permission to proceed with this emergency rulemaking (renewal) was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:**

March 26, 2026

2. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable)	Rulemaking Action
Article 12	New Article
R9-28-1201	New Section
R9-28-1202	New Section
R9-28-1203	New Section
R9-28-1204	New Section
Table 1	New Section
Table 2	New Section
R9-28-1205	New Section
R9-28-1206	New Section
R9-28-1207	New Section

- 3. Citations to the agency's statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):**

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D)

Implementing statute: A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D)

- 4. The effective date of the rule:**

April 7, 2026 (*immediately upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State*); effective for 180 days.

- 5. Citations to all related notices published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the current record of the emergency rule:**

Notice of Emergency Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 4227; Issue Date: October 31, 2025; Issue Number: 44; File Number: R25-247

- 6. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:**

Name: Ivy Voss

Title: Deputy General Counsel

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Division: AHCCCS Office of General Counsel
Address: 150 N. 18th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 417-4232
Fax: (602) 253-9115
Email: AHCCCSRules@azahcccs.gov
Website: www.azahcccs.com

7. An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:

The Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) is Arizona's Medicaid program administered by the AHCCCS Administration pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 36, Chapter 29, Article 2 for individuals who are elderly or have physical or developmental disabilities. Individuals eligible for ALTCS are determined to be at risk of institutionalization. A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D) directed AHCCCS, "[o]n or before October 1, 2025," to adopt "a strengthened standardized assessment tool to determine the need for extraordinary care for minor children." For this reason, AHCCCS initiated emergency rulemaking for the HCBS Needs Tool (HNT) for ALTCS members which became effective October 15, 2025 and which rules will remain in effect until April 13, 2026.

This renewal of emergency rulemaking describes the strengthened assessment process for direct care and habilitation services for ALTCS members through use of the HNT as required by A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D), incorporating modifications to the initial emergency rules as a result of robust public input. As noted in item 4 of this notice, AHCCCS is renewing the emergency rules currently in effect to maintain the strengthened standardized assessment tool required under A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D) while it proceeds with regular rulemaking and finalizes policies as a result of extensive public feedback from the stakeholder community. The renewal of emergency rulemaking will improve care delivery for ALTCS members, promote uniformity in the assessment process, and further compliance with Arizona statute.

8. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and either relied on or did not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

Not applicable

9. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

Not applicable

10. A summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact statement as required under A.R.S. § 45-1055(D)(1):

The proposed rule is estimated to have an annualized average fiscal impact of \$90 million Total Funds in medical expenditure savings for the program, with an 80% confidence that the annualized savings will range from approximately \$64 million to \$134 million statewide.

11. All matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. When applicable, matters shall include but are not limited to:

- a. **Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:**
Not applicable
- b. **Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:**
Federal law sets forth general provisions for an annual assessment and a person-centered planning process.
The rule is not more stringent than federal law.
- c. **Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitive-ness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:**
Not applicable

12. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

Not applicable

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13. An agency explanation about the situation justifying the rulemaking as an emergency rule:

A.R.S. § 36-2970.01(D) directed AHCCCS, “[o]n or before October 1, 2025,” to adopt “a strengthened standardized assessment tool to determine the need for extraordinary care for minor children.” For this reason, AHCCCS initiated emergency rulemaking and currently has emergency rules in effect until April 13, 2026. Renewal of these emergency rules is necessary to ensure continued compliance with state law while AHCCCS proceeds with regular rulemaking and finalizes crucial policies.

In addition, AHCCCS has conducted extensive public engagement and collaboration regarding the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Needs Tool (HNT) and has developed a strengthened assessment tool. Renewal of these emergency rules allows HNT rules to remain in effect, including provisions informed by public input, while stakeholder comments continue to be evaluated through the regular rulemaking process. Specifically, the renewal emergency rulemaking will incorporate updates to various direct care and habilitation service provisions, including adjustments to service eligibility parameters associated with HNT services that reflect many stakeholder comments and which benefit members.

The renewed emergency rulemaking reflects the following modifications to services specified in R9-28-1204 and which are all favorable to members: Six direct care services tasks will have modifications to the age limitations, permitting more children to be assessed for the services. Those direct care services include eating and feeding, bathing, dressing, grooming, mobility, and transferring. Specialty supervision and incontinence based laundry will be added as tasks, and no age limit is associated with specialty supervision. The number of weekly habilitation service hours for children ages 3 and older will also be expanded to no more than 14 hours of habilitation in a seven-day period. The emergency rulemaking will also include clarifications to the Extraordinary Care Review (ECR) process to reflect adherence to federal requirements. Renewal of the HNT emergency rulemaking serves the public interest and welfare by improving care delivery, promoting uniformity in the assessment process, and ensuring the Arizona Long-term Care System remains compliant with Arizona statute. Also, refer to item 7 of this notice for additional justification for the rulemaking.

As stated in item 4 of this notice, the emergency rules will be effective for another 180 days in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-1026.

14. A list of any changes between the renewal of the emergency rulemaking and the emergency rulemaking as specified under R1-1-701(H):

The following changes are proposed in this Emergency Rulemaking Renewal:

R9-28-1204. HCBS Needs Tool Criteria for ALTCS	
Members Under the Age of 18	
Subsections (B) and (C)	Lowered age thresholds for assessment of Direct Care Services and Habilitation Service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age limitation for tasks including eating and feeding, bathing, dressing, and grooming were reduced from ages 7-8 to age 5. • Mobility and transferring were reduced from age 4 to age 2.
Table 1	Direct Care Services for Members Under the Age of 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended to reflect revised age limitations across multiple service tasks. • Added and clarified service categories not subject to age limitations, including specialty supervisions, specialty eating and feeding, and specialty toileting needs.
Table 2	Habilitation Service for Members Under the Age of 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised to remove tiered age-based weekly service limits. • The original rule established tiered limits (5, 9,11) and 14 hours per week based on age ranges. • The amended rule eliminates tiered limits and establishes a uniform weekly limit of up to 14 hours in a 7-day period for members aged 3 through 17.
R9-28-1206. Extraordinary Care Review	
Subsection (B)	Expands required components of the ECR process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the ECR process • Notification requirements to members • Procedures for submitting a request and required information • Clinician qualifications • Record maintenance requirements
Subsection (C)	Requires that the ECR process be conducted by a clinician with appropriate professional experience and licensure or certification

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Subsection (D)	Added requirement that members be notified in writing of the ECR process when there is disagreement with assessed service hours
Subsection (E)	Establishes formal written request requirements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of requested services • Specification of additional hours requested • Requirement for task-specific rationale and supporting documentation
Subsection (F)(3):	Added requirement to comply with applicable federal timelines for decision-making and notification.
R9-28-1207 Reporting and Oversight	
Subsection (A)	Added requirement that contractors maintain records of all ECR requests and outcomes.
Subsection (B)	Added requirement that the Administration conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with the rule and evaluate effectiveness of the ECR process.

15. The date the Attorney General approved the rule:
April 7, 2026

16. The full text of the rules follows:

TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES

**CHAPTER 28. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS)
ARIZONA LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM**

ARTICLE 12. ~~REPEALED~~ HCBS NEEDS TOOL AND EXTRAORDINARY CARE REVIEW

Section	
R9-28-1201.	Repealed Definitions
R9-28-1202.	General Provisions
R9-28-1203.	HCBS Needs Tool Process
R9-28-1204.	HNT Criteria for ALTCS Members Under the Age of 18
Table 1.	Direct Care Services for Members Under the Age of 18
Table 2.	Habilitation Service for Members Under the Age of 18
R9-28-1205.	HNT Criteria for ALTCS Members Age 18 and Older
R9-28-1206.	Extraordinary Care Review
R9-28-1207.	Reporting and Oversight

ARTICLE 12. ~~REPEALED~~ HCBS NEEDS TOOL AND EXTRAORDINARY CARE REVIEW

R9-28-1201. ~~Repealed Definitions~~

1. “Activities of Daily Living” or “ADLs” means activities a member shall perform daily for the member’s regular day-to-day necessities, including but not limited to mobility, transferring, bathing, dressing, grooming, eating, and toileting as specified in Title 9 Chapter 28 Article 1.
2. “Arizona Long Term Care System” or “ALTCS” means a Medicaid program administered by the AHCCCS Administration pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 36, Chapter 29, Article 2 for an individual who is elderly or who has a physical or developmental disability.
3. “Case Manager” means an individual assigned as responsible for locating, accessing, and monitoring the provision of service to an individual in conjunction with a clinical team as specified in A.A.C. Title 9, Chapter 28, and Title 6, Chapter 6.
4. “Direct Care Services” means the services provided by Direct Care Workers or “DCWs” that are collectively known as Direct Care Services. There are three types of services within ALTCS that are provided by DCWs which consist of Attendant Care, Personal Care, and Homemaker services.
5. “Extraordinary Care” means care that exceeds the range of activities that a spouse or a legally responsible parent of a minor child would ordinarily perform in the household on behalf of the ALTCS member if the member did not have a disability or chronic illness, and which is necessary to assure the health and welfare of the member.
6. “Extraordinary Care Review” or “ECR” means a review process available to each member under the age of 18 who disagrees with the number of assessed hours for Direct Care Services, Habilitation Service, or both as a result of the age limitations set forth in the HNT.
7. “Habilitation Service” means the services that help a person get and keep skills and functioning for daily living.
8. “HCBS Needs Tool” or “HNT” means a standardized assessment instrument created by AHCCCS to evaluate the functional and support needs of ALTCS members who may benefit from receiving certain HCBS to support ADLs and IADLs. The HNT is specific to assessment of member need for Direct Care and Habilitation Service.

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9. “Health Care Decision Maker” or “HCDM” means an individual who is authorized to make health care treatment decisions for the patient. As applicable to the situation, this may include a parent of an unemancipated minor or an individual lawfully authorized to make health care treatment decisions as specified in Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 14, Chapter 5, Article 2 or 3 or A.R.S. §§ 8-514.05, 36-3221, 36-3231 or 36-3281.
10. “Home and Community Based Services” or “HCBS” means home and community-based services, as specified in A.R.S. §§ 36-2931 and 36-2939.
11. “Instrumental Activities of Daily Living” or “IADL” means activities a member shall perform that are more complex in nature and necessary for independent living and community participation, such as managing money, preparing meals, shopping, doing laundry, and using transportation as specified in Title 9 Chapter 28 Article 1.
12. “Person-Centered Service Plan” or “PCSP” means a written plan developed through an assessment of functional need that reflects each service and support, both paid and unpaid, that are important for and important to the member in meeting the identified needs and preferences for the delivery of each service and support. The PCSP shall also reflect the member’s strengths and preferences that meet the member’s social, cultural, and linguistic needs, individually identified and prioritized goals and desired outcomes, and reflect risk factors (including risks to member rights) and measures in place to minimize them, including individualized back-up plans and other strategies as needed.

R9-28-1202. General Provisions

The Administration shall require the ALTCS Case Manager to conduct a PCSP for each ALTCS member in each instance prescribed by 42 CFR § 441.725.

1. The PCSP process is an in-person meeting with the member, the HCDM if applicable, and any other person included in the Planning Team in order to develop a comprehensive PCSP.
2. The PCSP process is used to assess the member’s specific HCBS needs which includes assessment for the ADL or IADLs specific to Direct Care Services and Habilitation Service, utilizing the HNT as set forth in A.A.C. R9-28-1203.
3. The member will be assessed for Direct Care Services and Habilitation Service, if applicable, and if the member resides in their own home, the member or HCDM is interested in receiving HCBS, and the care team determines that HCBS services are appropriate.

R9-28-1203. HCBS Needs Tool Process

A. The Case Manager shall utilize the HNT when appropriate as outlined in A.A.C. R9-28-1202 to assess or re-assess need for Direct Care Services and Habilitation Service:

1. At least annually if the member is currently receiving a service.
2. The initial or annual PCSP indicates a potential need for the service.
3. The member experiences a significant change in condition that causes the member’s health to improve or decline.
4. At any time the member requests to receive an updated assessment, or
5. When the member or HCDM request to be evaluated for HCBS in lieu of institutional care.

B. The ALTCS Case Manager shall use the HNT to determine if Direct Care Services, Habilitation Service, or both will be authorized as part of the member’s HCBS service array.

1. The HNT shall be reviewed during each quarterly case management review meeting.
2. The HNT shall be completed in collaboration with the member, their HCDM or anyone else requested to participate by the member or HCDM.
3. The HNT will include documentation of the member’s or HCDM’s description of unique need for each task on the tool.
4. The HNT shall identify and document each service need regardless of cost-effectiveness or service delivery method.
5. The completed HNT shall be incorporated by reference into the member’s PCSP.

R9-28-1204. HNT Criteria for ALTCS Members Under the Age of 18

- A.** A copy of the HNT for a member under the age of 18 shall be made available on the Administration’s website.
- B.** For each Direct Care Services category identified below, a member under the age of 18 will be age-limited by the HNT, except when it is determined that the member requires Extraordinary Care pursuant to R9-28-206.
- C.** For Habilitation Service, a member under the age of 18 years will be age-limited by the HNT, except when it is determined that the member requires Extraordinary Care pursuant to R9-28-206.

Table 1. Direct Care Services for Members Under the Age of 18

Direct Care Services Task	Age Limitation
Housekeeping	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 18
Laundry	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 18
Incontinence-Based Laundry	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 4
Food Shopping	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 18
Medication Pick Up	No age limitation
Meal Preparation and Clean Up	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 12
Specialty Meal Preparation	No age limitation
Eating and Feeding	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 5
Specialty Eating and Feeding	No age limitation

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Bathing	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 5
Dressing	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 5
Grooming	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 5
Toileting	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 4
Specialty Toileting Needs	No age limitation
Mobility	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 2
Transferring	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 2
General Supervision	Shall not be assessed for children under the age of 10
Specialty Supervision	No age limitation

Table 2. Habilitation Service for Members Under the Age of 18

Member Ages	Weekly Service Limits
Members under the age of 3	Habilitation Service shall not be assessed
Members aged 3-17	Not to exceed 14 hours in a 7-day period

R9-28-1205. HNT Criteria for ALTCS Members Age 18 and Older

- A.** A copy of the HNT shall be made available on the Administration’s website.
- B.** Tasks assessed for a member aged 18 and older are not subject to age limitations.

R9-28-1206. Extraordinary Care Review

- A.** Each ALTCS Contractor, including DES/DDD, shall develop an ECR process to be submitted to the Administration for review prior to implementation.
- B.** The ECR process shall adhere to the provisions of this Section and shall include:
 - 1. The purpose.
 - 2. The notification process to members of the availability of ECR.
 - 3. How the ECR may be requested, including the information that must be provided.
 - 4. The type of clinician performing the ECR pursuant to Subsection (C), and
 - 5. Description of how the ECR records shall be maintained
- C.** The ECR process shall be conducted by a clinician with relevant professional experience and licensure or certification.
- D.** When a member or HCDM disagrees with the time assessed on the HNT, the ALTCS Contractor, including DES/DDD, shall notify members, in writing, of the ECR process.
- E.** A request for ECR shall be made in writing.
 - 1. The request shall be made by the member or HCDM.
 - 2. The request shall include:
 - a. Whether the member is seeking additional Direct Care Services, Habilitation Service, or both;
 - b. How many additional hours are requested for each service type, and for attendant care services, task-specific rationale must be provided.
 - c. The reason the member should be granted additional time for Extraordinary Care. Any additional supporting documentation can be included for review.
- F.** Upon request for ECR, each ALTCS Contractor, including DES/DDD, shall:
 - 1. Complete an ECR for Direct Care Services, Habilitation Service, or both consistent with the request.
 - 2. Render a decision in writing.
 - a. Inform the member, the HCDM, and the member’s Case Manager of the ECR determination which shall be incorporated into the member’s PCSP by the ALTCS Case Manager.
 - b. When the total time assessed for Direct Care Services, Habilitation Service, or both, is increased from the previous authorized hours, the services shall be authorized for service delivery by the ALTCS Case Manager.
 - c. When the total time assessed for Direct Care Services and Habilitation Service, or both, is less than the amount of time requested by the member in the ECR process, the ALTCS Contractor, including DES/DDD, shall issue a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination pursuant to A.A.C. R9-34-205.
 - 3. Adhere to federal timelines regarding decision making and notification of the outcome to members/families.

R9-28-1207. Reporting and Oversight

- A.** Each ALTCS Contractor, including DES/DDD, shall maintain records of all ECR requests and outcomes, as prescribed by the Administration.
- B.** The Administration shall conduct a periodic audit to ensure compliance with this rule and evaluate the effectiveness of the ECR process.

NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires an agency file a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening which outlines its rulemaking intentions under [A.R.S. § 41-1021](#).

A docket opening and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are often filed at the same time and published in the same *Register* issue.

If a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is not published in this *Register* that corresponds with a published docket in this week's issue, it simply means the agency has not filed the notice for consideration and public review.

An agency has one year from the publishing of this notice to propose a rule; after one year the docket expires.

Questions about the notice can be answered by the person listed in item #5 of the preamble.

Refer to item #6 in the preamble for information on how to comment on this notice.

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD

File Number: R26-54

1. **Permission to proceed with this docket was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:**

February 19, 2026

2. **Title and its heading:**

2. Administration

Chapter and its heading:

8. State Retirement System Board

Article and its heading:

3. Long-Term Disability

8. Recovery of Overpayments

Section number:

R2-8-301, R2-8-304, R2-8-804, R2-8-807

3. **The subject matter of the proposed rule:**

The ASRS needs to amend its rules to remove unnecessary definitions, clarify when a member may receive LTD benefits, clarify when a member may receive service credit while receiving LTD benefits, and how the ASRS or the ASRS contracted LTD claims administrator may collect an overpayment a forfeiture or LTD benefit. Such clarification will ensure the rules are clear, concise, and consistent and the public is aware of how the ASRS processes LTD benefits and overpayments.

4. **A citation to all published notices relating to the current proceeding:**

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 32 A.A.R. 921, April 24, 2026 (*in this issue*); File Number: R26-51

Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 2772; Issue Date: August 29, 2025; Issue Number: 35; File Number: R25-198

Notice of Termination of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking: 31 A.A.R. 4341; Issue Date: November 14, 2025; Issue Number: 46; File Number: R25-256

5. **The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:**

Name: Jessica Thomas

Title: Government Relations Officer

Address: 3300 N. Central Ave., Suite 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Telephone: (602) 240-2039

Email: JessicaT@azasrs.gov

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NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

Website: www.azasrs.gov

6. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:

The ASRS will accept comments during business hours as provided below through the end of the oral proceeding June 3, 2026. Comments will also be accepted via email at the email address provided under Item #5. Mailed written comments shall be postmarked within 30 days of this published notice.

An oral proceeding regarding the proposed rules will be held as follows:

Date: June 3, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting through Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/zwi-kgdb-uqu?hs=122&authuser=0>

Join by phone: 302-404-6620; PIN: 855 820 331#

7. A timetable for agency decisions or other action on the current proceeding, if known:

Unknown

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION FACILITY DATA**

File Number: R26-55

1. Permission to proceed with this docket was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:

April 7, 2026

2. Title and its heading:

9. Health Services

Chapter and its heading:

11. Department of Health Services – Health Care Institution Facility Data

Article and its heading:

1. Definitions
2. Annual Financial Statements and Uniform Accounting Reports
3. Rates and Charges Schedules
4. Hospital Inpatient Discharge Reporting
5. Emergency Department Discharge Reporting

Section number:

R9-11-101, R9-11-201, R9-11-204, R9-11-301, R9-11-304, R9-11-305, R9-11-401, R9-11-402, R9-11-501, and R9-11-502

Sections may be added, amended, repealed, or renumbered as necessary.

3. The subject matter of the proposed rule:

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 36-104 requires the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) to adopt rules “prescribing the designated database information to be collected by health professional regulatory boards” pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 32, Article 5. A.R.S. § 36-171 requires the Department to adopt rules to establish and maintain the health care professionals workforce data repository containing the data collected and transferred to the Department. The Department, in its 2025 five-year-review report, identified that the rules’ effectiveness could be improved by making the rules more clear, concise, and understandable by correcting grammatical errors, clarifying the language throughout the rules, and removing obsolete definitions. Any proposed changes will conform to the rulemaking format and style requirements of GRRC and the Office of the Secretary of State.

4. A citation to all published notices relating to the current proceeding:

Not applicable

NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

5. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:

Name: Joseph Spadafino
Title: Hospital Data & Systems Manager
Division: Planning and Operations
Address: 150 N. 18th Ave., Suite 550
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (480) 215-6092
Email: joseph.spadafino@azdhs.gov

or

Name: Stacie Gravito
Title: Office Chief, Administrative Counsel and Rules
Division: Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Address: 150 N. 18th Ave., Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 542-1020
Email: stacie.gravito@azdhs.gov

6. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:

To be announced in future notices regarding the rulemaking.

7. A timetable for agency decisions or other action on the current proceeding, if known:

To be announced in future notices regarding the rulemaking.

Arizona Administrative Register
NOTICES OF AGENCY OMBUDSMAN

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

NOTICES OF AGENCY OMBUDSMAN

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires the publication of Notices of Agency Ombudsman under A.R.S. §§ [41-1006\(A\)](#) and [41-1013\(B\)\(13\)](#).

An ombudsman is an agency's point of contact who assists members of the public or regulated community seeking information or guidance from the agency.

NOTICE OF AGENCY OMBUDSMAN

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

FILE Number: M26-24

1. The agency's name:

Arizona Department of Health Services

2. The ombudsman's contact information:

Name: Carly Fleege
Title: DHS Ombudsman
Division: Director's Office
Address: 150 N 18th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (480) 316-2823
Email: carly.fleege@azdhs.gov
Website: www.azdhs.gov

2026 REGISTER INDEXES

The *Register* is published by volume in a calendar year. Refer to the “Information” pages in the front of each issue for more details.

Abbreviations for rulemaking activity in this Index include:

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

PN means Proposed new Section
PM means Proposed amended Section
PR means Proposed repealed Section
P# means Proposed renumbered Section

SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSED RULEMAKING

SPN means Supplemental proposed new Section
SPM means Supplemental proposed amended Section
SPR means Supplemental proposed repealed Section
SP# means Supplemental proposed renumbered Section

FINAL RULEMAKING

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PER means Proposed Expedited repealed Section
PE# means Proposed Expedited renumbered Section

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPEDITED

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SPEM means Supplemental Proposed Expedited amended Section
SPER means Supplemental Proposed Expedited repealed Section
SPE# means Supplemental Proposed Expedited renumbered Section

FINAL EXPEDITED

FEN means Final Expedited new Section
FEM means Final Expedited amended Section
FER means Final Expedited repealed Section
FE# means Final Expedited renumbered Section

EXEMPT RULEMAKING

EXEMPT

XN means Exempt new Section
XM means Exempt amended Section
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X# means Exempt renumbered Section

EXEMPT PROPOSED

PXN means Proposed Exempt new Section
PXM means Proposed Exempt amended Section
PXR means Proposed Exempt repealed Section
PX# means Proposed Exempt renumbered Section

EXEMPT SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSED

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SPXR means Supplemental Proposed Exempt repealed Section
SPXM means Supplemental Proposed Exempt amended Section
SPX# means Supplemental Proposed Exempt renumbered Section

FINAL EXEMPT RULEMAKING

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FX# means Final Exempt renumbered Section

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ER means Emergency repealed Section
E# means Emergency renumbered Section
EEXP means Emergency expired

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REJECTION OF RULES

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TM means Terminated proposed amended Section
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T# means Terminated proposed renumbered Section

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EXP means Rules have expired
Refer to “emergency expired” under emergency rulemaking

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RULEMAKING ACTIVITY INDEX

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

RULEMAKING ACTIVITY INDEX

THIS INDEX INCLUDES RULEMAKING ACTIVITY THROUGH ISSUE 16 OF VOLUME 32.

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R9-7-1435.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-324.	PM-785		
R9-7-1436.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-325.	PM-785		
R9-7-1437.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-403.	PM-785		
R9-7-1438.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-405.	PM-785		
R9-7-1439.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-406.	PM-785		
R9-7-1440.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-502.	PM-785		
R9-7-1441.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-604.	PM-785		
R9-7-1442.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-801.	PM-785		
R9-7-1443.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-802.	PR-785		
R9-7-1444.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R19-1-804.	PM-785		
R9-7-1445.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	Manufactured Housing, Board of			
R9-7-1446.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R4-34-101.	PM-551		
R9-7-1447.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R4-34-102.	PM-551		
R9-7-1448.	FER-721; FE#-721; FEM-721	R4-34-201.	PM-551		
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Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

OTHER NOTICES AND PUBLIC RECORDS INDEX

Other legal notices required to be published under the Administrative Procedure Act, such as Rulemaking Docket Openings, are included in this Index by volume page number. Notices of Agency Ombudsman, Substantive Policy Statements, Proposed Delegation Agreements, and other applicable public records as required by law are also listed in this Index by volume page number.

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Arizona Administrative Register
RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), as amended by Laws 2002, Ch. 334, § 8 (effective August 22, 2002), states a rule generally becomes effective 60 days after the day it is filed with the Secretary of State's Office. The following table lists filing dates and effective dates for rules that follow this provision. Please also check the rulemaking notice's preamble for effective dates.

January

Date Filed		Effective Date
January 1	effective	March 2
January 2	effective	March 3
January 3	effective	March 4
January 4	effective	March 5
January 5	effective	March 6
January 6	effective	March 7
January 7	effective	March 8
January 8	effective	March 9
January 9	effective	March 10
January 10	effective	March 11
January 11	effective	March 12
January 12	effective	March 13
January 13	effective	March 14
January 14	effective	March 15
January 15	effective	March 16
January 16	effective	March 17
January 17	effective	March 18
January 18	effective	March 19
January 19	effective	March 20
January 20	effective	March 21
January 21	effective	March 22
January 22	effective	March 23
January 23	effective	March 24
January 24	effective	March 25
January 25	effective	March 26
January 26	effective	March 27
January 27	effective	March 28
January 28	effective	March 29
January 29	effective	March 30
January 30	effective	March 31
January 31	effective	April 1

February

Date Filed		Effective Date
February 1	effective	April 2
February 2	effective	April 3
February 3	effective	April 4
February 4	effective	April 5
February 5	effective	April 6
February 6	effective	April 7
February 7	effective	April 8
February 8	effective	April 9
February 9	effective	April 10
February 10	effective	April 11
February 11	effective	April 12
February 12	effective	April 13
February 13	effective	April 14
February 14	effective	April 15
February 15	effective	April 16
February 16	effective	April 17
February 17	effective	April 18
February 18	effective	April 19
February 19	effective	April 20
February 20	effective	April 21
February 21	effective	April 22
February 22	effective	April 23
February 23	effective	April 24
February 24	effective	April 25
February 25	effective	April 26
February 26	effective	April 27
February 27	effective	April 28
February 28	effective	April 29

March

Date Filed		Effective Date
March 1	effective	April 30
March 2	effective	May 1
March 3	effective	May 2
March 4	effective	May 3
March 5	effective	May 4
March 6	effective	May 5
March 7	effective	May 6
March 8	effective	May 7
March 9	effective	May 8
March 10	effective	May 9
March 11	effective	May 10
March 12	effective	May 11
March 13	effective	May 12
March 14	effective	May 13
March 15	effective	May 14
March 16	effective	May 15
March 17	effective	May 16
March 18	effective	May 17
March 19	effective	May 18
March 20	effective	May 19
March 21	effective	May 20
March 22	effective	May 21
March 23	effective	May 22
March 24	effective	May 23
March 25	effective	May 24
March 26	effective	May 25
March 27	effective	May 26
March 28	effective	May 27
March 29	effective	May 28
March 30	effective	May 29
March 31	effective	May 30

Arizona Administrative Register
RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

April

Date Filed		Effective Date
April 1	effective	May 31
April 2	effective	June 1
April 3	effective	June 2
April 4	effective	June 3
April 5	effective	June 4
April 6	effective	June 5
April 7	effective	June 6
April 8	effective	June 7
April 9	effective	June 8
April 10	effective	June 9
April 11	effective	June 10
April 12	effective	June 11
April 13	effective	June 12
April 14	effective	June 13
April 15	effective	June 14
April 16	effective	June 15
April 17	effective	June 16
April 18	effective	June 17
April 19	effective	June 18
April 20	effective	June 19
April 21	effective	June 20
April 22	effective	June 21
April 23	effective	June 22
April 24	effective	June 23
April 25	effective	June 24
April 26	effective	June 25
April 27	effective	June 26
April 28	effective	June 27
April 29	effective	June 28
April 30	effective	June 29

May

Date Filed		Effective Date
May 1	effective	June 30
May 2	effective	July 1
May 3	effective	July 2
May 4	effective	July 3
May 5	effective	July 4
May 6	effective	July 5
May 7	effective	July 6
May 8	effective	July 7
May 9	effective	July 8
May 10	effective	July 9
May 11	effective	July 10
May 12	effective	July 11
May 13	effective	July 12
May 14	effective	July 13
May 15	effective	July 14
May 16	effective	July 15
May 17	effective	July 16
May 18	effective	July 17
May 19	effective	July 18
May 20	effective	July 19
May 21	effective	July 20
May 22	effective	July 21
May 23	effective	July 22
May 24	effective	July 23
May 25	effective	July 24
May 26	effective	July 25
May 27	effective	July 26
May 28	effective	July 27
May 29	effective	July 28
May 30	effective	July 29
May 31	effective	July 30

June

Date Filed		Effective Date
June 1	effective	July 31
June 2	effective	August 1
June 3	effective	August 2
June 4	effective	August 3
June 5	effective	August 4
June 6	effective	August 5
June 7	effective	August 6
June 8	effective	August 7
June 9	effective	August 8
June 10	effective	August 9
June 11	effective	August 10
June 12	effective	August 11
June 13	effective	August 12
June 14	effective	August 13
June 15	effective	August 14
June 16	effective	August 15
June 17	effective	August 16
June 18	effective	August 17
June 19	effective	August 18
June 20	effective	August 19
June 21	effective	August 20
June 22	effective	August 21
June 23	effective	August 22
June 24	effective	August 23
June 25	effective	August 24
June 26	effective	August 25
June 27	effective	August 26
June 28	effective	August 27
June 29	effective	August 28
June 30	effective	August 29

Arizona Administrative Register
RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

July

Date Filed		Effective Date
July 1	effective	August 30
July 2	effective	August 31
July 3	effective	September 1
July 4	effective	September 2
July 5	effective	September 3
July 6	effective	September 4
July 7	effective	September 5
July 8	effective	September 6
July 9	effective	September 7
July 10	effective	September 8
July 11	effective	September 9
July 12	effective	September 10
July 13	effective	September 11
July 14	effective	September 12
July 15	effective	September 13
July 16	effective	September 14
July 17	effective	September 15
July 18	effective	September 16
July 19	effective	September 17
July 20	effective	September 18
July 21	effective	September 19
July 22	effective	September 20
July 23	effective	September 21
July 24	effective	September 22
July 25	effective	September 23
July 26	effective	September 24
July 27	effective	September 25
July 28	effective	September 26
July 29	effective	September 27
July 30	effective	September 28
July 31	effective	September 29

August

Date Filed		Effective Date
August 1	effective	September 30
August 2	effective	October 1
August 3	effective	October 2
August 4	effective	October 3
August 5	effective	October 4
August 6	effective	October 5
August 7	effective	October 6
August 8	effective	October 7
August 9	effective	October 8
August 10	effective	October 9
August 11	effective	October 10
August 12	effective	October 11
August 13	effective	October 12
August 14	effective	October 13
August 15	effective	October 14
August 16	effective	October 15
August 17	effective	October 16
August 18	effective	October 17
August 19	effective	October 18
August 20	effective	October 19
August 21	effective	October 20
August 22	effective	October 21
August 23	effective	October 22
August 24	effective	October 23
August 25	effective	October 24
August 26	effective	October 25
August 27	effective	October 26
August 28	effective	October 27
August 29	effective	October 28
August 30	effective	October 29
August 31	effective	October 30

September

Date Filed		Effective Date
September 1	effective	October 31
September 2	effective	November 1
September 3	effective	November 2
September 4	effective	November 3
September 5	effective	November 4
September 6	effective	November 5
September 7	effective	November 6
September 8	effective	November 7
September 9	effective	November 8
September 10	effective	November 9
September 11	effective	November 10
September 12	effective	November 11
September 13	effective	November 12
September 14	effective	November 13
September 15	effective	November 14
September 16	effective	November 15
September 17	effective	November 16
September 18	effective	November 17
September 19	effective	November 18
September 20	effective	November 19
September 21	effective	November 20
September 22	effective	November 21
September 23	effective	November 22
September 24	effective	November 23
September 25	effective	November 24
September 26	effective	November 25
September 27	effective	November 26
September 28	effective	November 27
September 29	effective	November 28
September 30	effective	November 29

Arizona Administrative Register
RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

October

Date Filed		Effective Date
October 1	effective	November 30
October 2	effective	December 1
October 3	effective	December 2
October 4	effective	December 3
October 5	effective	December 4
October 6	effective	December 5
October 7	effective	December 6
October 8	effective	December 7
October 9	effective	December 8
October 10	effective	December 9
October 11	effective	December 10
October 12	effective	December 11
October 13	effective	December 12
October 14	effective	December 13
October 15	effective	December 14
October 16	effective	December 15
October 17	effective	December 16
October 18	effective	December 17
October 19	effective	December 18
October 20	effective	December 19
October 21	effective	December 20
October 22	effective	December 21
October 23	effective	December 22
October 24	effective	December 23
October 25	effective	December 24
October 26	effective	December 25
October 27	effective	December 26
October 28	effective	December 27
October 29	effective	December 28
October 30	effective	December 29
October 31	effective	December 30

November

Date Filed		Effective Date
November 1	effective	December 31
November 2	effective	January 1
November 3	effective	January 2
November 4	effective	January 3
November 5	effective	January 4
November 6	effective	January 5
November 7	effective	January 6
November 8	effective	January 7
November 9	effective	January 8
November 10	effective	January 9
November 11	effective	January 10
November 12	effective	January 11
November 13	effective	January 12
November 14	effective	January 13
November 15	effective	January 14
November 16	effective	January 15
November 17	effective	January 16
November 18	effective	January 17
November 19	effective	January 18
November 20	effective	January 19
November 21	effective	January 20
November 22	effective	January 21
November 23	effective	January 22
November 24	effective	January 23
November 25	effective	January 24
November 26	effective	January 25
November 27	effective	January 26
November 28	effective	January 27
November 29	effective	January 28
November 30	effective	January 29

December

Date Filed		Effective Date
December 1	effective	January 30
December 2	effective	January 31
December 3	effective	February 1
December 4	effective	February 2
December 5	effective	February 3
December 6	effective	February 4
December 7	effective	February 5
December 8	effective	February 6
December 9	effective	February 7
December 10	effective	February 8
December 11	effective	February 9
December 12	effective	February 10
December 13	effective	February 11
December 14	effective	February 12
December 15	effective	February 13
December 16	effective	February 14
December 17	effective	February 15
December 18	effective	February 16
December 19	effective	February 17
December 20	effective	February 18
December 21	effective	February 19
December 22	effective	February 20
December 23	effective	February 21
December 24	effective	February 22
December 25	effective	February 23
December 26	effective	February 24
December 27	effective	February 25
December 28	effective	February 26
December 29	effective	February 27
December 30	effective	February 28
December 31	effective	March 1

Arizona Administrative Register
RULES EFFECTIVE DATES CALENDAR

REGISTER DEADLINES

The Secretary of State's Office publishes the *Register* weekly. There is a three-week delay between the deadline date to file a notice and the *Register* date in which the notice is published. The weekly deadline dates are listed in the first column and issue dates are provided in the second column. Listed in the third column are the earliest dates on which an oral proceeding can be held on proposed rulemakings or proposed delegation agreements, following publication of the notice in the *Register*. Governor Regulatory Review Council meetings and *Register* deadlines do not correlate.

Deadline Date Friday, 5:00 p.m.	<i>Register</i> Publication Date	Oral Proceeding may be scheduled on or after
January 9, 2026	January 30, 2026	March 2, 2026
January 16, 2026	February 6, 2026	March 9, 2026
January 23, 2026	February 13, 2026	March 16, 2026
January 30, 2026	February 20, 2026	March 23, 2026
February 6, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 30, 2026
February 13, 2026	March 6, 2026	April 6, 2026
February 20, 2026	March 13, 2026	April 13, 2026
February 27, 2026	March 20, 2026	April 20, 2026
March 6, 2026	March 27, 2026	April 27, 2026
March 13, 2026	April 3, 2026	May 4, 2026
March 20, 2026	April 10, 2026	May 11, 2026
March 27, 2026	April 17, 2026	May 18, 2026
April 3, 2026	April 24, 2026	May 26, 2026 Earlier date due to a holiday
April 10, 2026	May 1, 2026	June 1, 2026
April 17, 2026	May 8, 2026	June 8, 2026
April 24, 2026	May 15, 2026	June 15, 2026
May 1, 2026	May 22, 2026	June 22, 2026
May 8, 2026	May 29, 2026	June 29, 2026
May 15, 2026	June 5, 2026	July 6, 2026
May 22, 2026	June 12, 2026	July 13, 2026
May 29, 2026	June 19, 2026	July 20, 2026
June 5, 2026	June 26, 2026	July 27, 2026
June 12, 2026	July 3, 2026	August 3, 2026

GOVERNOR’S REGULATORY REVIEW COUNCIL DEADLINES

Volume 32, Issue 17, April 24, 2026

GOVERNOR’S REGULATORY REVIEW COUNCIL DEADLINES

MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The deadlines provided in the following table apply to all Five-Year Review Reports and any rulemaking notice submitted for review to the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council (Council). The Office publishes these deadlines under A.R.S. § [41-1013\(B\)\(15\)](#).

Council meetings and *Register* deadlines do not correlate.

All rulemaking notices submitted for review and Five-Year Review Reports are due in the Council office by 5 p.m. of the deadline date.

The Council’s office is located at 100 N. 15th Ave., Suite 305, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

For more information, call (602) 542-2058 or visit the Council’s [website](#).

File Number: M25-79

DEADLINE FOR PLACEMENT ON AGENDA Materials must be submitted by 5 p.m. on dates listed in this column as a deadline for placement on a particular agenda. Placement on a particular agenda is not guaranteed.	DEADLINE FOR FINAL MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL	DATE OF COUNCIL STUDY SESSION	DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 20, 2026	Tuesday February 17, 2026	Tuesday February 24, 2026	Tuesday March 3, 2026
Tuesday February 17, 2026	Tuesday March 24, 2026	Tuesday March 31, 2026	Tuesday April 7, 2026
Tuesday March 24, 2026	Tuesday April 21, 2026	Tuesday April 28, 2026	Tuesday May 5, 2026
Tuesday April 21, 2026	Tuesday May 19, 2026	Wednesday May 27, 2026	Tuesday June 2, 2026
Tuesday May 19, 2026	Tuesday June 23, 2026	Tuesday June 30, 2026	Tuesday July 7, 2026
Tuesday June 23, 2026	Tuesday July 21, 2026	Tuesday July 28, 2026	Tuesday August 4, 2026
Tuesday July 21, 2026	Tuesday August 18, 2026	Tuesday August 25, 2026	Tuesday September 1, 2026
Tuesday August 18, 2026	Tuesday September 22, 2026	Tuesday September 29, 2026	Tuesday October 6, 2026
Tuesday September 22, 2026	Tuesday October 20, 2026	Tuesday October 27, 2026	Tuesday November 3, 2026
Tuesday October 20, 2026	Tuesday November 17, 2026	Tuesday November 24, 2026	Tuesday December 1, 2026
Tuesday November 17, 2026	Tuesday December 22, 2026	Tuesday December 29, 2026	Tuesday January 5, 2027
Tuesday December 22, 2026	Tuesday January 19, 2027	Tuesday January 26, 2027	Tuesday February 2, 2027