



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session

House: LARA DPA 7-2-0-0

## **HB 2544: appropriation; agriculture; brand inspectors**

**Sponsor: Representative Diaz, LD 19**

**Caucus & COW**

### **Overview**

Adds five full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (Department) to increase the number of brand inspectors in Graham and Greenlee Counties.

### **History**

Livestock officers are peace officers, certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, who have the authority to pursue and arrest any person who violates state law relating to livestock. The Department employs livestock officers and inspectors to ensure compliance with various requirements related to managing livestock. These staff must inspect livestock, except equine, for health, marks and brands before the livestock are slaughtered, sold, purchased, driven, transported, shipped or conveyed (A.R.S. §§ [3-1208](#) and [3-1331](#)).

Livestock officers and inspectors also help facilitate a self-inspection program that allows branded range cattle, unbranded dairy and feedlot cattle, sheep, goats and swine to move to auction, inspected slaughterhouse, feedlot, arena and pasture-to-pasture within a ranch using a self-inspection certificate. Livestock inspectors and officers also respond to stray and ownership dispute calls and investigate theft, welfare and neglect cases (A.R.S. §§ [3-1203](#) and [3-1332](#) through [3-1337](#)).

*Livestock* means cattle, equine, sheep, goats and swine, except feral pigs ([A.R.S. § 3-1201](#)).

*Livestock officer* means an animal health and welfare officer, animal health and welfare inspector or investigator employed by the Department ([A.R.S. § 3-1201](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Adds five FTE positions to the Department. (Sec. 1)
2. Requires the Department to use the five additional FTE positions to increase the number of brand inspectors. (Sec. 2)
3. Instructs the Department to use the five additional FTE positions to prioritize brand inspections in Graham and Greenlee Counties. (Sec. 2)

### **Amendments**

*Committee on Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs*

1. Removes the specification that the five FTE positions are to increase the number of brand inspectors in Graham and Greenlee Counties.

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)

☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)

☐ Emergency (40 votes)

☐ Fiscal Note

2. Appropriates \$957,175 from the state General Fund in FY 2026 to the Arizona Department of Agriculture and clarifies that the five full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the Department are for specified professions.
3. States that the Legislature intends that the five FTEs and \$532,725 are ongoing funding in future years.