



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2641

appropriations; department of agriculture; staffing

Purpose

Appropriates \$1,270,814.32 and 6.5 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) from the state General Fund (state GF) in FY 2024 to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) for the outlined purposes.

Background

The AZDA may: 1) adopt rules regarding the importation of animals into Arizona; 2) establish a mandatory self-inspection program for moving livestock from one location to another; 3) establish a central investigation group to investigate reports of crimes and violations of law and AZDA rules related to livestock; and 4) employ livestock officers and inspectors to inspect livestock, other than livestock subject to authorized self-inspection. The AZDA must provide livestock inspections at border inspection stations or at AZDA offices (A.R.S. §§ [3-1203](#); [3-1208](#); and [3-1332](#)).

Livestock officers and inspectors inspect livestock: 1) health; 2) marks and brands at loading stations; 3) at places of exit from Arizona; and 4) at places where livestock are gathered to be sold, slaughtered, transported, conveyed, shipped or driven from their range. Livestock officers and inspectors may also authenticate bills of sale and brands and marks. A livestock officer must seize livestock wherever found whenever the livestock officer questions the livestock's ownership under the circumstances outlined in statute. Livestock officers, but not livestock inspectors, are peace officers certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board and must pursue and arrest any person on probable cause of a violation of law relating to livestock (A.R.S. §§ [3-1331](#) and [3-1332](#)).

Livestock is cattle, equine, sheep, goats and swine, except feral pigs. *Equine* is horses, mules, burros and asses ([A.R.S. § 3-1201](#)).

H.B. 2641 appropriates \$1,270,814.32 and 6.5 FTEs from the state GF in FY 2024 to the AZDA.

Provisions

1. Appropriates the following sums of monies and FTEs from the state GF in FY 2024 to the AZDA:
 - a) \$193,787.94 and 1 FTE for a certified peace officer located in eastern Maricopa and Pinal counties to investigate livestock neglect and cruelty and criminal matters involving livestock and to complete livestock inspections for health and ownership;
 - b) \$348,842 and 2 FTEs for one animal inspector at the Douglas Port of Entry and one animal health inspector at the Nogales Port of Entry;

FACT SHEET

H.B. 2641

Page 2

- c) \$326,231.44 and 1.5 FTEs for certified peace officers to investigate livestock neglect and cruelty and criminal matters involving livestock and to complete livestock inspection for health and ownership for investigations and inspections located in northern Cochise, Gila, Graham and Greenlee counties;
 - d) \$193,787.94 and 1 FTE for a certified peace officer to ensure compliance with the self-inspection program for hauling cattle and ownership transfers; and
 - e) \$208,165 and 1 FTE for an animal health regional supervisor.
2. States that the Legislature intends that the appropriations to AZDA be considered ongoing funding in future years.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

LARA	2/13/23	DPA	9-0-0-0
3 rd Read	3/9/23		54-3-3

Prepared by Senate Research

March 21, 2023

RA/FB/slp