



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session

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## **HB 2855: terrorist organizations; drug cartels**

**Sponsor: Representative Montenegro, LD 29**

**Committee on Judiciary**

### **Overview**

Declares that drug cartels are terrorist organizations and requires the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) to do everything within its authority to address the threat that drug cartels pose.

### **History**

[Laws 2006, Chapter 317](#) established AZDOHS with the primary directive of deterring and mitigating acts of terrorism and other domestic security concerns. Current law requires AZDOHS to:

- 1) formulate policies, plans and programs to enhance Arizona's ability to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism, cybersecurity threats and other critical hazards;
- 2) adhere to all federal grant terms and conditions;
- 3) request appropriations or grants of monies for homeland security purposes;
- 4) receive all awards granted to Arizona by the federal government for homeland security purposes; and
- 5) distribute monies to local jurisdictions and other organizations eligible under federal regulations based on criteria in the federal grant guidelines ([A.R.S. § 41-4254](#)).

Statute also establishes five AZDOHS regional advisory councils, representing the north, east, south, west and central regions of Arizona. In coordination with AZDOHS, these regional advisory councils are required to support and assist in implementing Arizona's comprehensive statewide risk assessment and an integrated regional approach to homeland security, among other responsibilities ([A.R.S. § 41-4258](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Declares that drug cartels are terrorist organizations. (Sec. 1)
2. Requires AZDOHS to do everything within its authority to address the threat posed by drug cartels. (Sec. 1)
3. Asserts that this Act does not support an alien's claim for asylum under federal law. (Sec. 1)
4. Defines *drug cartel* and *threat*. (Sec. 1)
5. Contains a findings clause. (Sec. 2)

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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