

External Affairs and Partnerships

2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY (56TH LEGISLATURE, 1st REGULAR SESSION)

The 2023 legislative session began on January 9, 2023, and adjourned sine die on July 31, 2023. At 204 days, 2023 shattered the previous record of 172 days set in 1988.

The legislature proposed 1,675 bills and 113 memorial resolutions were introduced, a slight decline from last session. Of these, 205 were signed by the governor and enacted into law with various effective dates and 35 resolutions were filed with the secretary of state. Governor Hobbs set a record for bills vetoed at 143.

Because of the unusually long session, the general effective date for most legislation is not until October 30, 2023.

FY 2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW

APPROPRIATIONS TO ARIZONA'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The FY 24 state budget provides the second year of a three-year funding allocation for the New Economy Initiative for a total of \$46 M. In addition, the universities received \$5 M in one-time dollars for operating and capital expenses. The appropriations are as follows:

	NEI (second year funding)	One-time Operations and Capital	Total
NAU	\$10.1 M	\$1.0 M	\$11.1 M
ASU	\$21.2 M	\$2.4 M	\$23.6 M
UArizona	14.7 M	\$1.6 M	\$16.3 M

OTHER ONE-TIME UNIVERSITY-RELATED APPROPRIATIONS

The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) received the following one-time FY 24 appropriations for distribution to the universities:

- \$20 M for the Arizona Promise Program
- \$15 M for the Arizona Teachers Academy
- \$5 M to expand primary care residency programs (UArizona)
- \$2 M for a new Law Enforcement Families Scholarship Program
- \$2 M for the Museum of Democracy Presidential Project

ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS SPECIFIC TO ASU

- \$4 M for a Center for American Institutions
- \$500 K for a collegiate women's wrestling program

ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS SPECIFIC TO UARIZONA

- \$15.2 M to provide on-farm irrigation efficiency grants
- \$1 M for agricultural workforce program apprenticeships

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- \$2M for Board of Medical Student Loans
- \$1.5 M (over three years) for a space analog program
- \$1 M to the Health Science Center for fall prevention studies
- \$500 K for the Arizona REACH Program

FINAL DISPOSITION OF ABOR/UNIVERSITY PRIORITY BILLS

ABOR AND THE UNIVERSITIES PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION

HB 2089 – military veterans; surviving spouses; scholarships (Payne)

ABOR's bill to expand eligibility for a tuition scholarship from the Spouses of Military Veterans Tuition Scholarship Fund to include the surviving spouse of an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who has not remarried. The bill was amended to allow students to attend a private postsecondary institution with the scholarship. **(Held awaiting Committee of the Whole in the Senate)**

SB 1179 – ABOR; reporting requirements; revisions (Bennett)

ABOR's bill to streamline reporting by eliminating antiquated requirements and modifying reporting periods. Further, this bill would ensure reports provided to policy makers contain meaningful data. **(Held awaiting Committee of the Whole in the House)**

ABOR AND THE UNIVERSITIES FORMALLY SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION

SB 1717 – dual enrollment; revisions; appropriations (Kaiser)

Establishes the Dual Enrollment Incentive Program within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to provide an incentive bonus to teachers, school districts and charter schools for students who obtain a passing grade in a qualifying dual enrollment course. Establishes bonus requirements and amounts and appropriates corresponding amounts from the state GF. **(Included in the budget after being held in the House)**

ABOR AND THE UNIVERSITIES FORMALLY OPPOSED THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION (NONE ENACTED)

SB 1300/HB 2667 – disruptions; educational institution; concealed weapon (Rogers/Jones)

Mirror bills that prohibit universities and community colleges from prohibiting the possession of a concealed firearm on campus if the person possesses a concealed carry permit **(Vetoed by the Governor)**

HB 2428 – private universities; Arizona teachers academy (Gress)

Expands the Arizona Teachers Academy to include private postsecondary institutions. Reimbursement for an ATA scholarship provided by a degree-granting private postsecondary educational institution is capped at the remainder of the average in-state tuition and fees charged by universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents, minus other gifts and aid awarded to the student. **(Vetoed by the Governor)**

SB 1145 – student activity fees; conscience exemption. (Hoffman)

Similar bill from last year that requires ABOR to exempt certain students from paying student activity fees if payment would violate the student's conscience. The bill specifically entitles the following

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students to this exemption: veterans recently returned from service, recently married students or students who recently became parents who do not participate in student activities, students who object to the activities on religious or moral grounds, students who demonstrate financial hardship and students who are on campus part-time. **(Failed on the House floor)**

SB 1182 – Arizona promise program; private universities (Bennett)

Expands the Arizona Promise Program to include private postsecondary institutions. An award provided to an eligible student by a private postsecondary educational institution is capped from exceeding the highest actual cost of in-state tuition and fees charged by a university under the jurisdiction of ABOR. **(Held in House Rules)**

SCR 1024 – treatment; discrimination; prohibited (Wadsack)

Subject to voter approval, a constitutional amendment that would require approval from voters, to prohibit preferential treatment or discrimination based on individuals race or ethnicity when hiring, contracting, promoting, or giving an admission decision, regardless of federal requirements. **(Held in House Rules)**

SCR 1033 – state debt; limit; restrictions; prohibitions (Mesnard)

Subject to voter approval, amends the state Constitution to define “debt” issued by the state are paid with state general fund monies: general obligation bonds, long-term notes and obligations, certificates of participation and other obligations of a lease-purchase agreement, revenue bonds, and obligations in one fiscal year that are deferred in whole or in part to another fiscal year. It exempts long-term capital projects for education or public safety purposes. **(Held in House Rules)**

OTHER NOTABLE LEGISLATION THAT FAILED TO PASS

SB 1694 – public monies; ideology training; prohibition (Hoffman)

Prohibits public entities from requiring an employee to engage in a diversity, equity and inclusion program, spending public monies on a DEI program, and advancing or adopting any policy or procedure designed to influence the composition of its workforce on the basis of race, sex, or color. An employee of a public entity who is required to participate in a DEI program is authorized to bring an action against the public entity. **(Failed in the House on 3rd Read)**