

Senate Engrossed

~~trade or commerce; technical correction~~
(now: rural business development advisory council)

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1136

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 41-1505, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 41-1505. Rural business development advisory council

5 A. The rural business development advisory council is established.
6 The mission of the council is to advise the board of directors regarding
7 rural business development strategies, including creating jobs,
8 diversifying economies and attracting new investment.

9 B. The council consists of the following members:

10 1. One representative from each county, seven of whom are appointed
11 by the governor and four each of whom are appointed by the president of
12 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

13 2. One representative of a rural development organization that
14 represents statewide interests who is appointed by the governor.

15 3. One member representing all Indian tribes, nations, bands and
16 communities in this state who is appointed by the governor.

17 4. The chief executive officer or the chief executive officer's
18 designee.

19 C. Each year the governor shall appoint a member to serve as
20 chairperson. The chairperson may be reappointed. Council members shall
21 serve staggered three-year terms beginning and ending on the third Monday
22 in January. The members of the council serve without compensation and are
23 subject to title 38, chapter 3, article 8, relating to conflicts of
24 interest.

25 D. The council shall:

26 1. Recommend to the board of directors policy development and
27 funding allocations to complement regional and local economic development
28 strategies that focus on and assist rural communities.

29 2. Leverage local, state and federal resources to advance business
30 in rural areas of this state.

31 3. Develop selection criteria and an application format for rural
32 communities or areas to use in applying for matching monies.

33 4. Make recommendations for coordinating personnel activities of
34 the authority to ensure that communities receive appropriate technical
35 assistance to implement economic development efforts.

36 5. Assist local rural economic development professionals, main
37 street project managers and others involved in economic development.

38 6. Make recommendations regarding:

39 (a) State responsibilities under any necessary contracts with
40 consultants, including the national main street center of the national
41 trust for historic preservation.

42 (b) Coordination of the activities of other state agency personnel
43 assisting with rural economic development programs.

44 7. Monitor the progress of main street communities and other
45 aspects of the program.

1 8. Coordinate the expenditure of available federal monies to
2 support rural business and economic development programs.

3 9. PROVIDE RESEARCH ON LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES TO SECURING
4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, INCLUDING CHALLENGES RELATED TO WATER
5 CERTAINTY, BROADBAND AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

6 E. Each year the council shall develop a priority list of economic
7 strength projects that meet the criteria established by section 28-7281
8 and submit the list to the chief executive officer. The council shall
9 confer with regional planning agencies and local authorities that would be
10 affected by a specific economic strength project and shall submit their
11 comments to the chief executive officer. After review by the board, the
12 chief executive officer shall transmit the priority list and comments to
13 the state transportation board. The council shall set priorities for
14 individual projects based on the following:

15 1. The cost of the project.

16 2. The number of jobs that the project will cause to be created,
17 retained or increased.

18 3. The nature and amount of capital investment or other
19 contribution to the economy of this state or a local authority as a result
20 of the project.

21 4. The likelihood that benefits resulting from the project will
22 exceed the costs of the project.

23 5. Whether the amount of contributions to the project provided from
24 other than the economic strength project fund is at least ten percent of
25 the cost of the project.

26 6. The amount and percentage of funding for the project that will
27 come from a source other than the economic strength project fund as
28 compared to other proposed projects.

29 7. The amount of expenditures required for local infrastructure
30 relating to the project.

31 8. The magnitude of the project and its relative value to this
32 state or a local authority as compared to other proposed projects.

33 9. The extent to which the project would contribute to achieving an
34 equitable distribution of monies and projects among the various regions of
35 this state and throughout this state as a whole.

36 10. The specific time schedule for completion of the project.