

REFERENCE TITLE: study committee; justice involved veterans

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **HB 2652**

Introduced by  
Representatives Marshall: Diaz, Hendrix, Jones

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS STUDY COMMITTEE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Justice-involved veterans study committee;  
3 membership; duties; report; delayed repeal

4 A. The justice-involved veterans study committee is established  
5 consisting of the following members:

6 1. Two members of the senate who are appointed by the president of  
7 the senate and who are from different political parties. One member shall  
8 serve as cochairperson.

9 2. Two members of the house of representatives who are appointed by  
10 the speaker of the house of representatives and who are from different  
11 political parties. One member shall serve as cochairperson.

12 3. One member from the Arizona department of veterans' services who  
13 is appointed by the director of the Arizona department of veterans'  
14 services and who has expertise in services and benefits for  
15 justice-involved veterans.

16 4. The director of the state department of corrections or the  
17 director's designee.

18 5. The director of the Arizona department of housing or the  
19 director's designee.

20 6. The director of the department of public safety or the  
21 director's designee.

22 7. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's  
23 designee.

24 8. The following members who are appointed by the president of the  
25 senate:

26 (a) One county constable who is from a county with a population of  
27 eight hundred fifty thousand persons or more.

28 (b) One member who is from a statewide housing advocacy  
29 organization and who has expertise in providing services to veterans.

30 (c) One member who has experience as a judge in a regional  
31 specialty treatment court designated as a veterans treatment court or  
32 another equivalent court.

33 (d) One member who is from a community-based organization that is  
34 focused on building this state's capacity to care for and support all  
35 service members and veterans and their families and communities.

36 (e) One member who is from a state university that is conducting  
37 research on the social determinants of health, resiliency and risk  
38 reduction of service members and veterans and their families.

39 9. The following members who are appointed by the speaker of the  
40 house of representatives:

41 (a) One member who is from a nonprofit organization and who has  
42 experience providing legal advocacy services to justice-involved veterans.

43 (b) One member who is from a nonprofit organization and who has  
44 experience providing mental health, substance use and primary care

1 treatment, housing and recovery support services in metropolitan and rural  
2 areas.

3 (c) One member who is from a state university that is conducting  
4 research on service members and veterans and their families who are  
5 involved in the military or criminal justice system, recidivism and risk  
6 factors.

7 (d) One member who is from the community with lived experience as a  
8 justice-involved veteran or family member.

9 B. The study committee shall convene quarterly or more frequently  
10 as the cochairpersons deem necessary.

11 C. Committee members are not eligible to receive compensation.

12 D. The study committee shall:

13 1. Research, study and make recommendations regarding the  
14 following:

15 (a) Best practices for identifying and conducting outreach to  
16 justice-involved veterans and relevant stakeholders in the criminal  
17 justice community.

18 (b) The process and assistance available for justice-involved  
19 veterans in applying for federal and state veterans' benefits and legal  
20 aid, including challenges in rural, remote or underserved areas.

21 (c) An assessment of pre-release and postincarceration services  
22 that are available to justice-involved veterans in this state, including  
23 assessment, programming and interventions, discharge planning, housing,  
24 employment services and connections to community resources.

25 (d) Training that is available for federal, state, county and  
26 community-based organizations in identifying and effectively managing  
27 obstacles specific to veterans, such as traumatic brain injuries,  
28 post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma and mental health  
29 and substance abuse issues.

30 2. Identify federal, state, local and community resources to  
31 support veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system and  
32 develop a comprehensive statewide network of information and referral  
33 resources, including a re-entry resource guide and toolkit for justice-  
34 involved veterans and community stakeholders.

35 3. Develop a comprehensive roadmap to improve coordination between  
36 criminal justice agencies in this state, the Arizona department of  
37 veterans' services, the United States department of veterans affairs and  
38 community-based organizations that serve veterans who are involved in the  
39 criminal justice system.

40 4. Recommend improvements to the identification and assessment of  
41 veterans within the criminal justice system, standardized data collection  
42 protocols and best practices for cross-collaboration in data sharing among  
43 relevant stakeholders.

44 5. Review the availability and efficacy of veterans treatment  
45 courts in meeting the needs of justice-involved veterans and provide

1 recommendations on program eligibility, operating policies and guidelines,  
2 funding needs, reliable methods of monitoring veterans treatment court  
3 activities and best practices for data collection and sharing.

4 6. Gather and analyze relevant data related to justice-involved  
5 veterans, including arrest rates, incarceration rates, the types of  
6 offenses committed, recidivism rates, the duration of incarceration,  
7 involvement with specialty courts, demographic information, mental health  
8 diagnoses, substance abuse issues and co-occurring disorders.

9 7. Propose policy revisions and appropriations recommendations to  
10 rectify data collection and programming gaps and barriers to services  
11 affecting veterans in the criminal justice system.

12 E. On or before December 1, 2024, the study committee shall submit  
13 a report regarding the study committee's activities and recommendations  
14 for administrative or legislative action to the governor, the president of  
15 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and provide a  
16 copy of this report to the secretary of state.

17 F. This section is repealed from and after October 31, 2025.