

REFERENCE TITLE: **Leezah Sun; expulsion**

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

HR 2005

Introduced by
Representative HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A RESOLUTION

EXPELLING REPRESENTATIVE LEEZAH SUN FROM THE ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, on December 14, 2022, then Representative-elect Leezah Sun
2 had a meeting with the Superintendent of the Littleton Elementary School
3 District, Dr. Roger Freeman. At that meeting, Representative Sun asked Dr.
4 Freeman if he was familiar with S.B. 1487, which is codified in state law.
5 Representative Sun stated that it allowed her to have anyone investigated
6 for any reason. Dr. Freeman interpreted her explanation as a threat to
7 either himself or to the district and was so alarmed by her threat that he
8 contacted others in the school district; and

9 Whereas, on May 31, 2023, Representative Sun attended a meeting at
10 the Tolleson Civic Center with three city employees, Reyes Medrano,
11 Tolleson City Manager, Pilar Sinawi, Tolleson Chief Government Affairs
12 Officer and Alicia Guzman, Tolleson Government Affairs Support Specialist
13 (collectively "Tolleson employees"). At that meeting, Representative Sun
14 became agitated and used offensive language and displayed abusive and
15 aggressive behavior towards the Tolleson employees, which led to them
16 contacting the Tolleson Police Department and filing an incident report;
17 and

18 Whereas, on June 16, 2023, Representative Sun interfered in the
19 lawful transfer of children from the custody of one parent to another.
20 While speaking with the court-appointed supervisor who was trying to
21 facilitate the custodial transfer, Representative Sun identified herself
22 as a state representative and directed the supervisor to let the children
23 stay with their stepfather. Representative Sun's behavior undermined and
24 obstructed the judicial process, and her actions and comments were
25 perceived by the court-appointed supervisor as hostile, threatening and
26 intimidating; and

27 Whereas, on August 30, 2023, Representative Sun attended the League
28 of Arizona Cities and Towns conference in Tucson, Arizona. At that
29 conference, she had a meeting with two lobbyists and their client
30 regarding a potential opportunity for the City of Tolleson. One of the
31 lobbyists requested that Representative Sun introduce her to Tolleson's
32 mayor or director of intergovernmental affairs. In response,
33 Representative Sun indicated that the referenced city employee is Pilar
34 Sinawi and that if she saw Ms. Sinawi, she would bitch-slap her, throw her
35 over the balcony and kill her. This statement was very alarming to those
36 who heard it; and

37 Whereas, the lobbyist later provided a statement to the Tolleson
38 Police Department regarding the threat made by Representative Sun. Ms.
39 Sinawi contacted the Tolleson Police Department regarding Representative
40 Sun's threats, and an incident report was prepared that detailed the
41 events at the conference; and

42 Whereas, on October 18, 2023, the Tolleson employees filed a
43 petition for workplace injunction against Representative Sun. The
44 Superior Court in Maricopa County granted the petition and entered an
45 order on October 18, 2023 against Representative Sun, which prohibits her

1 from contacting the Tolleson employees and going to or near the Tolleson
2 Civic Center. The order found that Representative Sun is a credible
3 threat to the physical safety of the Tolleson employees and is prohibited
4 from possessing, receiving or purchasing firearms for the duration of the
5 order; and

6 Whereas, on November 2, 2023, Representatives Lupe Contreras, Oscar
7 De Los Santos, Melody Hernandez and Nancy Gutierrez filed a complaint
8 against Representative Sun regarding her behavior towards the Tolleson
9 employees and during the child custody transfer interference. The
10 complaint noted that Representative Sun's behavior established a pattern
11 that reflected poorly on Representative Sun as well as on the Arizona
12 House of Representative as an institution. The complaint requested that
13 the Arizona House of Representative Committee on Ethics ("Ethics
14 Committee") investigate Representative Sun's actions; and

15 Whereas, on December 19, 2023, the Ethics Committee held the first
16 evidentiary hearing at which various relevant exhibits and the testimony
17 of witnesses and Representative Sun were considered; and

18 Whereas, on January 9, 2023, the Littleton Elementary School Board
19 held a public hearing and Representative Sun spoke to the public during
20 the call. During her testimony before the school board, Representative Sun
21 specifically expressed her displeasure at Dr. Freeman's participation in
22 this House Ethics matter; and

23 Whereas, on January 25, 2024, the Ethics Committee held a second
24 evidentiary hearing at which additional exhibits and testimony of
25 witnesses and Representative Sun were considered; and

26 Whereas, on January 30, 2024, the Ethics Committee issued its
27 report, which unanimously concluded that Representative Sun committed a
28 pattern of disorderly behavior, thereby violating Rule 1 of the Rules of
29 the Arizona House of Representatives and damaging its institutional
30 integrity and that it is appropriate for the Arizona House of
31 Representative as a whole to determine what, if any, disciplinary measures
32 should be taken. Specifically, the Ethics Committee found that
33 Representative Sun:

34 1. Levied a death threat toward the Tolleson official while acting
35 in her official capacity as a member of the Arizona House of
36 Representatives.

37 2. Misused her title and position as a state representative when
38 she knowingly prevented the execution of a lawful court order in a private
39 custodial matter to which she was not a party.

40 3. Engaged in a pattern of abusing her official title and position
41 as evidenced by the Littleton Elementary School District incident; and

42 Whereas, on January 30, 2024, the members of the full Arizona House
43 of Representative adopted the Report of the Ethics Committee as the
44 findings of the Arizona House of Representatives.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

3 1. That the Members of the House of Representatives find that
4 Representative Leezah Sun violated House of Representatives Rule 1 and
5 engaged in disorderly behavior.

6 2. That Representative Leezah Sun's conduct undermined the public's
7 confidence in this institution and violated the order and decorum
8 necessary to complete the people's work in the State of Arizona.

9 3. That in the exercise of the power granted to the House of
10 Representatives by Article IV, part 2, section 11, Constitution of
11 Arizona, the House of Representatives, with the concurrence of two-thirds
12 of its members, hereby condemns the actions of Representative Leezah Sun
13 and expels her from the Arizona House of Representatives.

14 4. That the seat of the member of the House of Representatives,
15 legislative district 22, occupied by Leezah Sun, is now vacant.