

REFERENCE TITLE: firearms; state preemption; civil penalty

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1705

Introduced by
Senator Gowan

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 13-3108, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO WEAPONS
AND EXPLOSIVES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 13-3108, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 13-3108. Firearms regulated by state; state preemption;
5 injunction; civil penalties; cause of action;
6 violation; classification; definition

7 A. Except as provided in subsection G of this section, a political
8 subdivision of this state shall not enact any ordinance, rule or tax
9 relating to the transportation, possession, carrying, sale, transfer,
10 purchase, acquisition, gift, devise, storage, licensing, registration,
11 discharge or use of firearms or ammunition or any firearm or ammunition
12 components or related accessories in this state.

13 B. A political subdivision of this state shall not require the
14 licensing or registration of firearms or ammunition or any firearm or
15 ammunition components or related accessories or prohibit the ownership,
16 purchase, sale or transfer of firearms or ammunition or any firearm or
17 ammunition components, or related accessories.

18 C. A political subdivision of this state shall not require or
19 maintain a record in any form, whether permanent or temporary, including a
20 list, log or database, of any of the following:

21 1. Any identifying information of a person who leaves a weapon in
22 temporary storage at any public establishment or public event, except that
23 the operator of the establishment or the sponsor of the event may require
24 that a person provide a government issued identification or a reasonable
25 copy of a government issued identification for the purpose of establishing
26 ownership of the weapon. The operator or sponsor shall store any provided
27 identification with the weapon and shall return the identification to the
28 person when the weapon is retrieved. The operator or sponsor shall not
29 retain records or copies of any identification provided pursuant to this
30 paragraph after the weapon is retrieved.

31 2. Except in the course of a law enforcement investigation, any
32 identifying information of a person who owns, possesses, purchases, sells
33 or transfers a firearm.

34 3. The description, including the serial number, of a weapon that
35 is left in temporary storage at any public establishment or public event.

36 D. A political subdivision of this state shall not enact any rule
37 or ordinance that relates to firearms and is more prohibitive than or that
38 has a penalty that is greater than any state law penalty. A political
39 subdivision's rule or ordinance that relates to firearms and that is
40 inconsistent with or more restrictive than state law, whether enacted
41 before or after July 29, 2010, is null and void.

42 E. A political subdivision of this state shall not enact any
43 ordinance, rule or regulation limiting the lawful taking of wildlife
44 during an open season established by the Arizona game and fish commission
45 unless the ordinance, rule or regulation is consistent with title 17 and

1 rules and orders adopted by the Arizona game and fish commission. This
2 subsection does not prevent a political subdivision from adopting an
3 ordinance or rule restricting the discharge of a firearm within one-fourth
4 mile of an occupied structure without the consent of the owner or occupant
5 of the structure. For the purposes of this subsection:

6 1. "Occupied structure" means any building in which, at the time of
7 the firearm's discharge, a reasonable person from the location where a
8 firearm is discharged would expect a person to be present.

9 2. "Take" has the same meaning prescribed in section 17-101.

10 F. This state, any agency or political subdivision of this state
11 and any law enforcement agency in this state shall not facilitate the
12 destruction of a firearm or purchase or otherwise acquire a firearm for
13 the purpose of destroying the firearm except as authorized by section
14 13-3105 or 17-240.

15 G. This section does not prohibit a political subdivision of this
16 state from enacting and enforcing any ordinance or rule pursuant to state
17 law or relating to any of the following:

18 1. Imposing any privilege or use tax on the retail sale, lease or
19 rental of, or the gross proceeds or gross income from the sale, lease or
20 rental of, firearms or ammunition or any firearm or ammunition components
21 at a rate that applies generally to other items of tangible personal
22 property.

23 2. Prohibiting a minor who is unaccompanied by a parent,
24 grandparent or guardian or a certified hunter safety instructor or
25 certified firearms safety instructor acting with the consent of the
26 minor's parent, grandparent or guardian from knowingly possessing or
27 carrying on the minor's person, within the minor's immediate control or in
28 or on a means of transportation a firearm in any place that is open to the
29 public or on any street or highway or on any private property except
30 private property that is owned or leased by the minor or the minor's
31 parent, grandparent or guardian. Any ordinance or rule that is adopted
32 pursuant to this paragraph shall not apply to a minor who is fourteen,
33 fifteen, sixteen or seventeen years of age and who is engaged in any of
34 the following:

35 (a) Lawful hunting or shooting events or marksmanship practice at
36 established ranges or other areas where the discharge of a firearm is not
37 prohibited.

38 (b) Lawful transportation of an unloaded firearm for the purpose of
39 lawful hunting.

40 (c) Lawful transportation of an unloaded firearm for the purpose of
41 attending shooting events or marksmanship practice at established ranges
42 or other areas where the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited.

43 (d) Any activity that is related to the production of crops,
44 livestock, poultry, livestock products, poultry products or ratites or
45 storage of agricultural commodities.

1 3. The regulation of commercial land and structures, including a
2 business relating to firearms or ammunition or their components or a
3 commercial shooting range in the same manner as other commercial
4 businesses. Notwithstanding any other law, this paragraph does not:

5 (a) Authorize a political subdivision to regulate the sale or
6 transfer of firearms on property it owns, leases, operates or controls in
7 a manner that is different than or inconsistent with state law. For the
8 purposes of this subdivision, a use permit or other contract that provides
9 for the use of property owned, leased, operated or controlled by a
10 political subdivision shall not be considered a sale, conveyance or
11 disposition of property.

12 (b) Authorize a political subdivision through a zoning ordinance to
13 prohibit or otherwise regulate the otherwise lawful discharge of a firearm
14 or maintenance or improvements directly related to the discharge on a
15 private lot or parcel of land that is not open to the public on a
16 commercial or membership basis.

17 (c) Authorize a political subdivision to regulate the otherwise
18 lawful discharge of a firearm or maintenance or improvements directly
19 related to the discharge on land that is used for agriculture or other
20 noncommercial purposes.

21 4. Regulating employees or independent contractors of the political
22 subdivision who are acting within the course and scope of their employment
23 or contract. For the purposes of this paragraph, acting within the course
24 and scope of their employment or contract does not include the lawful
25 possession, carrying, transporting or storing of a firearm or other
26 weapon:

27 (a) On real property that is owned by the employee or independent
28 contractor.

29 (b) In or on a private vehicle or craft that is owned or operated
30 by the employee or independent contractor unless the ordinance or rule
31 violates another applicable federal or state law or regulation.

32 (c) Pursuant to section 12-781.

33 5. Limiting or prohibiting the discharge of firearms in parks and
34 preserves except:

35 (a) As allowed pursuant to chapter 4 of this title.

36 (b) On a properly supervised range as defined in section 13-3107.

37 (c) In an area approved as a hunting area by the Arizona game and
38 fish department. Any such area may be closed when deemed unsafe by the
39 director of the Arizona game and fish department.

40 (d) To control nuisance wildlife by permit from the Arizona game
41 and fish department or the United States fish and wildlife service.

42 (e) By special permit of the chief law enforcement officer of the
43 political subdivision.

44 (f) As required by an animal control officer in performing duties
45 specified in section 9-499.04 and title 11, chapter 7, article 6.

1 (g) In self-defense or defense of another person against an animal
2 attack if a reasonable person would believe that deadly physical force
3 against the animal is immediately necessary and reasonable under the
4 circumstances to protect oneself or the other person.

5 H. Any ordinance, regulation, tax or rule that is enacted by a
6 political subdivision in violation of this section is invalid and subject
7 to a permanent injunction against the political subdivision from enforcing
8 the ordinance, regulation, tax or rule. It is not a defense that the
9 political subdivision was acting in good faith or on the advice of
10 counsel.

11 I. If a court determines that a political subdivision has knowingly
12 and wilfully violated this section, the court may assess a civil penalty
13 of up to ~~fifty thousand dollars~~ \$50,000 against the political subdivision.

14 J. IF A COURT DETERMINES THAT AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED LOCAL
15 GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY HEAD HAS KNOWINGLY AND
16 WILFULLY VIOLATED THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY ASSESS A CIVIL PENALTY OF UP
17 TO \$5,000 AGAINST THE ELECTED OR APPOINTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR
18 ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY HEAD.

19 ~~J.~~ K. If a court determines that a person has knowingly and
20 wilfully violated this section while acting in the person's official
21 capacity through enactment of any ordinance, regulation, tax, measure,
22 directive, rule, enactment, order or policy, the person may be subject to
23 termination from employment to the extent allowable under state law.

24 ~~K.~~ L. A person or an organization whose membership is adversely
25 affected by any ordinance, regulation, tax, measure, directive, rule,
26 enactment, order or policy that is in violation of this section may file a
27 civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief and actual damages
28 against the political subdivision in any court of this state having
29 jurisdiction over any defendant in the action. If the plaintiff prevails
30 in the action, the court shall award both:

31 1. Reasonable attorney fees and costs.

32 2. The actual damages incurred not to exceed ~~one hundred thousand~~
33 ~~dollars~~ \$100,000.

34 ~~L.~~ M. A violation of any ordinance established pursuant to
35 subsection G, paragraph 5 of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor unless
36 the political subdivision designates a lesser classification by ordinance.

37 N. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW, PUBLIC MONIES MAY NOT BE
38 USED TO DEFEND OR REIMBURSE THE UNLAWFUL CONDUCT OF ANY PERSON WHO IS
39 FOUND TO HAVE KNOWINGLY AND WILFULLY VIOLATED THIS SECTION.

40 ~~M.~~ O. For the purposes of this section, "political subdivision"
41 includes a political subdivision acting in any capacity, including under
42 police power, in a proprietary capacity or otherwise.