

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND WATER COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND WATER COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting
January 11, 2024
9:00 A.M., SHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024011021>

Members Present:

Senator Sine Kerr, Co-Chair
Senator Frank Carroll
Senator Brian Fernandez
Senator David Gowan
Senator Juan Mendez
Senator Thomas T.J. Shope
Senator Priya Sundareshan

Representative Gail Griffin, Co-Chair
Representative Oscar De Los Santos
Representative Timothy M. Dunn
Representative Alexander Kolodin
Representative Christopher Mathis
Representative Cory McGarr
Representative Barbara Parker
Representative Austin Smith
Representative Anastasia "Stacey" Travers
Representative Betty J. Villegas

Staff:

Rachel Andrews, Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Research Analyst
Samuel Rosenberg, Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Assistant Research Analyst
Emily Bonner, House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Research Analyst
Blanca Santillan Ramos, House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Research Assistant Analyst

Co-Chair Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and attendance was taken.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General

Marc Owen, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment A).

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Owen answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Presentation by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

Tom Torres, State Forester, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Presentation to Committee of Reference, Performance Audit and Performance Review" (Attachment B). Mr. Torres answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Owen answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Griffin offered comments.

Public Testimony

Jack Lunsford, City of Buckeye, offered comments in support of the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Griffin moved that the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference and the House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference recommends that the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management be continued for 8 years until July 1, 2032.

Representative Kolodin requested a roll call vote. Representative McGarr seconded the motion.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 12-4-1 (Attachment 1).

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Presentation by the Arizona Resource Advisory Council

Lynn Cordova, Legislative Policy Administrator, Arizona State Land Department, offered comments regarding the Arizona Resource Advisory Council and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Griffin offered comments.

Rachel Andrews, Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Research Analyst, answered questions posed by the committee.

Ms. Cordova answered additional questions posed by the committee.

Ms. Andrews answered additional questions posed by the committee.

Representative Griffin answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Cordova answered additional questions posed by the committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendation

No further discussion took place.

Representative Griffin moved that the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference and the House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference recommends that the Arizona Resource Advisory Council be terminated. The motion CARRIED by a voice vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA POWER AUTHORITY

Presentation by the Arizona Power Authority

Jordy Fuentes, Director, Arizona Power Authority, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Power Authority, Joint NREW Committee of Reference" (Attachment C) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendation

Representative Kolodin offered comments.

Representative Griffin moved that the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference and the House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee of Reference recommends that the Arizona Power Authority be continued for 8 years until July 1, 2032. The motion CARRIED by a voice vote.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their positions on the agenda items (Attachment D).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigid Fitzgerald
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)