5

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO H.B. 2610 (Reference to printed bill)

Amendment instruction key:

[GREEN UNDERLINING IN BRACKETS] indicates text added to statute or previously enacted session law.

[$\underline{\mathsf{Green}}$ underlining in $\underline{\mathsf{brackets}}$] indicates text added to new session law or text restoring existing law.

[GREEN STRIKEOUT IN BRACKETS] indicates new text removed from statute or previously enacted session law.

[Green strikeout in brackets] indicates text removed from existing statute, previously enacted session law or new session law.

<<Green carets>> indicate a section added to the bill.

<<Green strikeout in carets>> indicates a section removed from the bill.

1 The bill as proposed to be amended is reprinted as follows:

2 Section 1. Section 15–103, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 3 read:

15-103. <u>School districts; financial mismanagement;</u> intervention; receivership; definitions

- A. The state board of education shall review allegations of school district insolvency and gross mismanagement. The state board shall give the school district an opportunity to respond to these allegations at a public meeting. If the state board determines that the school district is insolvent or has grossly mismanaged its finances, the state board shall appoint a receiver or fiscal crisis team for that school district.
- B. The state board shall find a school district insolvent if it 13 finds one or more of the following:
- 14 1. The school district is unable to pay debts as they fall due or 15 in the usual course of business.
- 16 2. The salaries of any teachers or other employees have remained 17 unpaid for forty-five days.
- 18 3. The tuition due another school district or other state 19 institution remains unpaid on or after January 1 of the year following the 20 school year it was due and there is no dispute regarding the validity or 21 amount of the claim.
- 4. The school district has defaulted in payment of its bonds or a interest on bonds or in payment of rentals due any state or federal authority or private business for a period of sixty calendar days and no action has been initiated within that period of time to make payment.
- 5. The school district has contracted for any loan not authorized the law.
- 28 6. The school district has accumulated and has operated with a 29 deficit equal to five per cent PERCENT or more of the school district's 30 revenue control limit for any fiscal year within the past two fiscal years 31 or the conditions prescribed in section 15-107 have occurred.
- 7. The school district's warrants have not been honored for payment by the school district's servicing bank or by the county treasurer and the

1 warrants have remained unpaid for a period of more than sixty calendar 2 days.

- 3 C. A school district shall not be deemed to be insolvent pursuant 4 to subsection B of this section if the circumstances are the result of the 5 failure of the state to make any payments of monies due the school 6 district at the time payment is due.
- D. The state board of education shall have HAS jurisdiction over 8 all petitions requesting that a school district be placed in receivership 9 and a receiver be appointed or that a fiscal crisis team be appointed 10 because of the school district's alleged insolvency or gross 11 mismanagement. The state board shall have HAS the burden of demonstrating 12 by a preponderance of the evidence that the school district is insolvent 13 or is engaged in gross mismanagement.
- E. If the state board of education finds that the school district is insolvent or has engaged in gross mismanagement, the state board may leave the school district in receivership and appoint a receiver recommended by the state board. The state board shall develop and adopt a list of qualified receivers to be appointed by the board.
- F. On appointment, the receiver SHALL PERFORM THE ACTIONS PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION AND may perform any of the actions prescribed in paragraphs 1 through 11 PARAGRAPH 2 of this subsection and shall begin a full review and investigation of the school district's financial affairs and submit to the state board of education a detailed report listing the findings of that investigation that shall include INCLUDES a financial improvement plan and budget that details how the school district will eliminate any continued gross financial mismanagement and achieve financial solvency. The plan shall include a proposed timeline for achieving financial solvency. The receiver shall submit the report within one hundred twenty days after the receiver's appointment. The financial improvement plan approved by the state board of education:
- 1. SHALL REQUIRE THE RECEIVER TO TERMINATE FOR CAUSE THE SCHOOL 33 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT. THE RECEIVER MAY NOT PROVIDE A SEVERANCE OR 34 BUYOUT PACKAGE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IF THE STATE BOARD OF 35 EDUCATION PLACES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RECEIVERSHIP. A SUPERINTENDENT 36 WHO IS TERMINATED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MAY APPEAL THE TERMINATION TO 37 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IF THE SUPERINTENDENT FILES AN APPEAL WITH 38 THE STATE BOARD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE 39 TERMINATION.
 - 2. May authorize the receiver to do any of the following:
- 41 1. (a) Override any decisions of the school district's governing 42 board or the school district superintendent, or both, concerning the 43 management and operation of the school district, and initiate and make 44 decisions concerning the management and operation of the school district.
- 45 2. (b) Attend any and all meetings of the school district's 46 governing board and administrative staff.
- 47 3. (c) Supervise the day-to-day activities of the school 48 district's staff, including reassigning the duties and responsibilities of

1 personnel in a manner that, in the determination of the receiver, best 2 suits the needs of the school district.

4. (d) Place on extended leave, suspend or terminate for cause the 4 school district's superintendent or chief financial officer, or both. The 5 receiver is not authorized to provide a severance or buyout package to the 6 school district's superintendent or chief financial officer if the school 7 district is placed into IN receivership by the state board of education. 8 A person CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER WHO IS terminated pursuant to this 9 paragraph SUBDIVISION may appeal the receiver's decision TERMINATION to 10 the state board of education if an appeal is filed with the state board 11 within thirty days of AFTER receiving notice of the termination.

5. (e) Authorize pupils to transfer from schools operated by the 12 13 school district to schools operated by another school district that is not 14 currently in receivership.

6. (f) Appoint a chief educational officer who shall possess the 15 16 powers and duties of a school district superintendent. A chief officer who is appointed pursuant to this paragraph 17 educational 18 SUBDIVISION shall hold a valid administrative certificate.

19 7. (g) Appoint a chief fiscal officer who shall possess the powers 20 and duties of the school district's chief school business official and any 21 other duties regarding budgeting, accounting and other financial matters 22 that are assigned to the school district by law.

23 8. (h) Appoint a competent independent public accountant to audit 24 the accounts of the school district.

25 9. (i) Reorganize the school district's financial 26 management and budgetary systems to improve financial responsibility and 27 reduce financial inefficiency within the district.

10. (j) Establish school district fiscal guidelines and a system of 29 internal controls, including internal administrative controls and internal 30 accounting controls, with provisions for internal audits.

11. (k) Cancel or renegotiate any contract, other than contracts of 31 32 certificated teachers who have been employed by the school district in the 33 capacity of a certificated teacher for more than one year immediately 34 before the date the receiver was appointed, to which the governing board 35 or the school district is a party if the cancellation or renegotiation of 36 the contract will produce needed economies in the operation of the 37 district's schools. The receiver may refuse to reemploy any certificated 38 teacher who has not been employed by the school district for more than the 39 major portion of three consecutive school years as provided in section 40 15-536.

41 G. The receiver's power, authority and duties shall be ARE 42 effective on the date of the receiver's appointment by the state board of 43 education. The receiver shall perform the receiver's duties according to 44 the instructions of the state board of education order and according to 45 law. The receiver shall promptly report any violations of law, including 46 a violation of the uniform system of financial records, to the state board 47 of education.

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- H. On review and approval of the state board of education, the 2 receiver shall take all necessary steps to implement the financial 3 improvement plan and budget utilizing USING those powers identified in the 4 plan as prescribed in subsection F of this section.
- I. The salary and benefits of the receiver and any officers or 6 employees appointed by the receiver shall be paid by the school district. 7 The state board of education shall determine the salary for the receiver 8 and any officers or employees appointed by the receiver based on amounts 9 recommended by the state board.
- J. The state board of education shall remove the school district 10 11 from receivership and dismiss the receiver and dismiss any officer or 12 employee appointed by the receiver thirty days after all of the following 13 have occurred:
- 14 1. The auditor general certifies that the school district has been 15 financially solvent for one fiscal year.
- 2. The auditor general certifies that the school district's 16 17 financial records are in compliance with the uniform system of financial 18 records and generally accepted accounting principles.
- 19 3. The receiver certifies that the school district is no longer 20 engaged in gross mismanagement.
- 21 4. The state board of education has determined that the school 22 district is able to pay its debts as those debts become due.
- 23 K. Beginning ninety days after the submission of the first report 24 prescribed in subsection F of this section, the receiver shall submit a 25 quarterly progress report to the state board of education. 26 board of education shall review the expenses and costs of the receiver at 27 least once each calendar quarter.
- L. The state board of education shall formally review the 29 receiver's progress every six months. If, based on the quarterly progress 30 reports, the state board determines that the receiver's progress is 31 insufficient, the state board may remove the current receiver and appoint 32 another receiver for the school district.
- M. The state board of education may dismiss the receiver for cause 34 or on a majority vote of no confidence in the receiver of the state board.
- N. The school district shall indemnify the receiver and any officer 36 or employee appointed by the receiver who is made or threatened to be made 37 a party to any litigation by reason of their status under this section if 38 the receiver, officer or employee acted in good faith and in a manner that 39 the receiver, officer or employee reasonably believed to be consistent 40 with the best interest of the school district and if the receiver, officer 41 or employee had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was 42 unlawful.
- During the period of time that the school district is in 43 0. 44 receivership, no A member, officer, employee or agent of the school 45 district may NOT enter into any contract or incur any liability on behalf 46 of the school district for any purpose if the amount of the contract or 47 liability exceeds the receiver's authorized financial plan and budget for 48 the school district. The receiver may discipline, including, if warranted,

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1 imposing a suspension from duty without pay, removal from office or 2 termination of, any school district employee or officer who violates this 3 subsection.

- P. This section does not create a private cause of action against the school district or its officers, directors, board members or 6 employees.
- 7 Q. The assumption of control of the school district by the receiver 8 shall in no way NOT interfere with the election or reelection of school 9 district governing board members, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-302.01.
- 10 R. This section shall not interfere with a school district's 11 ability to declare bankruptcy under federal law.
- 12 S. The state board of education shall continue to monitor and offer 13 technical assistance to a school district for two years after its removal 14 from receivership.
- T. All information received and records or reports kept by the 16 state board of education during an investigation resulting from a 17 complaint against a receiver appointed pursuant to this section or section 18 15-107 are confidential and not a public record.
- U. The state board of education or the department of education shall immediately notify the auditor general if the board or department has knowledge that a superintendent or chief financial officer who was employed at the school district at the time the school district was placed in receivership is currently employed in another school district or charter school in this state.
- V. Notwithstanding any other law, a fiscal crisis team appointed 26 pursuant to this section shall be IS subject to section 15-107, 27 subsections E through H and a school district that is assigned a level two 28 fiscal crisis team pursuant to this section shall be IS subject to section 29 15-107, subsections J, K and L.
 - W. For the purposes of this section:
 - 1. "Fiscal crisis team" means either:
- 32 (a) A level one fiscal crisis team with the duties and authority 33 prescribed in section 15-107, subsection D, paragraph 2.
- 34 (b) A level two fiscal crisis team with the duties and authority 35 prescribed in section 15-107, subsection D, paragraph 3.
- 36 2. "Gross mismanagement" means that the school district's officers 37 or employees committed or engaged in gross incompetence or systemic and 38 egregious mismanagement of the school district's finances or financial 39 records.
- 3. "Notice" means written notice personally served or delivered by 41 certified mail, return receipt requested.
- 42 4. "Receiver" means an individual WHO IS appointed by the state 43 board of education from the persons recommended by the state board for the 44 purpose of managing a school district placed in receivership by the state 45 board of education.
- 5. "Receivership" means the state or condition of being under the control of the receiver appointed by the state board of education.

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6. "Superintendent" means the chief executive officer of the school
 2 district.
        Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 3, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
 4 is amended by adding section 15-302.01, to read:
        15-302.01. School district governing board members: removal:
6
                      appointment
        NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, IF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
7
8 PLACES A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RECEIVERSHIP PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-103, THE
9 COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS
10 LOCATED SHALL REMOVE EACH MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
11 AND SHALL FILL THE VACANCIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-302, EXCEPT THAT[:
        1.] THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MAY NOT ACCEPT NAMES FROM THE
12
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION.
        [2. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED IN TWO OR MORE COUNTIES, EACH
15 VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED BY THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY
16 IN WHICH THE REMOVED GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER RESIDED AT THE TIME OF
17 REMOVAL.]
18
        <<<del>Sec. 3. Section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to</del>
19 read:
20
        15-421. Governing boards; members; qualifications;
21
                   prohibitions; candidate statements; definitions
22
        A. The governing body of a school district shall be a governing
23 board. There shall be three governing board members, except as otherwise
24 provided by this section and section 15-425, subsection A.
25
        B. The governing body of a high school district shall be a
26 governing board composed of:
        1. In a single district, the governing board members of the common
28 school district.
29
        2. In a union high school district, five members.
30
        C. A person is eligible for election to the office of governing
31 board member if all of the following apply:
        1. The person is a registered voter of this state.
33
        2. The person has been a resident of the school district for at
34 least one year immediately preceding the day of election.
        3. The person is not subject to registration as a sex offender in
36 this state or in any other jurisdiction.
37
        4. THE PERSON HAS NOT BEEN REMOVED FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING
38 BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-302.01.
        D. An employee of a school district, including a person who
40 directly provides certified or classified services to the school district
41 as an employee of a third-party contractor, or the spouse of such an
42 employee may not hold membership on the governing board of a school
43 district by which the employee is employed.
        E. Notwithstanding subsection D of this section and title 38,
45 chapter 3, article 8, a small school district may employ, including
46 employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the
47 small school district, a substitute teacher who is related to a member of
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48 the governing board as immediate family and who has had the same household

1 of residence within the preceding four years. If a small school district 2 employs a substitute teacher pursuant to this subsection, the member of 3 the governing board who is related to the substitute teacher shall be 4 recused from voting on any matter relating to substitute teachers.

F. A school district may employ, including employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the school district, a person who served as a member of the school district's governing board during the preceding two years only in a position in which the person will provide services directly to students, including as a certificated teacher, a substitute teacher and an employee or contractor who provides transportation, instructional support or student support services. A school district may increase the time period prescribed in this subsection to be more than two years.

G. A member of one governing board is ineligible to be a candidate for nomination or election to or serve simultaneously as a member of any other governing board, except that a member of a governing board may be a candidate for nomination or election for any other governing board if the member is serving in the last year of a term of office. A member of a governing board shall resign the member's seat on the governing board before becoming a candidate for nomination or election to the governing board of any other school district, unless the member of the governing board is serving in the last year of a term of office.

H. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school 24 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement 25 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing 26 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list 27 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link 28 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the 29 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the 30 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office 31 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification 32 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than 33 twenty-one days before the date that general election early ballots are 34 allowed to be mailed. The person shall post each candidate's statement on 35 the county school superintendent's website not later than fourteen days 36 before the date that general election early ballots are allowed to be 37 mailed. If a candidate does not submit a statement, the county school 38 superintendent's website shall state "no response submitted" for the 39 candidate. The candidate statements shall be posted on the website 40 alphabetically by each school district and by candidate. The candidate 41 statement shall be typewritten or electronically submitted. The county 42 school superintendent shall post the statements verbatim as they are 43 received unless a candidate requests in writing that typographical errors 44 be corrected. The candidate statement shall contain the following items 45 in the same size and format for each candidate:

1. A recent photograph of the candidate.

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47 2. A statement not to exceed five hundred words.

- 3. A disclosure of any relationships by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree that exist between the candidate and any current governing board members or other candidates for election to the same governing board.
- I. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household of residence within four years prior shall not serve simultaneously on the governing board of the same school district if the governing board is composed of five members. For a school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall serve simultaneously on the governing board of the same school district if the governing board is composed of five members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.
- J. A person related as immediate family who has the same household 17 of residence within four years prior to a member of the governing board of 18 the same school district is ineligible to be a candidate for nomination or 19 election to that governing board if the governing board is composed of 20 five members, except that a person related as immediate family who has the 21 same household of residence within four years prior to a member of a 22 governing board may be a candidate for nomination or election to the 23 governing board of the same school district if the member is serving in 24 the last year of a term of office. For a school district with a student 25 count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a 26 population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two 27 persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third 28 degree shall be eligible to be a candidate for nomination or election to a 29 governing board that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who 30 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to 31 enforce this subsection.
- K. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household of residence within four years prior are ineligible to be simultaneous candidates for nomination or election to the governing board of the same school district if the governing board is composed of five members. For a school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall be simultaneous candidates for nomination or election to a governing board that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.
 - L. For the purposes of this section:
- 44 <u>1. "Household of residence" means the place of abode during</u> 45 applicable time periods or the residence address used by an individual for 46 voter registration or property tax purposes.
- 47 <u>2. "Immediate family" means individuals who are married to each</u> 48 other and any children of those individuals.

- 1 3. "Small school district" has the same meaning prescribed in 2 section 15-901.>>
- 3 < < Sec. 3. Section 38-201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 4 read:
 - 38-201. General qualifications
- A. Every officer shall be [not less than] [AT LEAST] eighteen years 7 of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state.
- B. [No] [A] person is [NOT] eligible to any office, employment or 9 service in any public institution in [the] [THIS] state[$\overline{}$] or in any of 10 the several counties [thereof,] [OF THIS STATE] of any kind or character, 11 whether by election, appointment or contract, unless [he] [THE PERSON] is 12 a citizen of the United States, but [the provisions of] this subsection 13 [shall] [DOES] not apply to the employment of any teacher, instructor or 14 professor authorized to teach in the United States under the teacher 15 exchange program as provided by federal statutes or the employment of 16 university or college faculty members.
- 17 C. A person who is unable to speak, write and read the English 18 language is not eligible to hold a state, county, city, town or precinct 19 office in the state, whether elective or appointive, and $\lceil \overline{n\sigma} \rceil$ $\lceil \underline{A} \rceil$ 20 certificate of election or commission shall $\lceil \underline{NOT} \rceil$ issue to a person so 21 disqualified.
- D. Except as provided in subsection E [OF THIS SECTION], a person is not eligible for employment by or service for [the] [THIS] state or a political subdivision of [the] [THIS] state, including all boards and commissions of [the] [THIS] state or political subdivision [OF THIS] commissions of [the] [THIS] state or political subdivision [OF THIS] all multimember governing bodies of departments, agencies, institutions and instrumentalities of [the] [THIS] state or political subdivisions [OF THIS STATE] unless the person has registered with the selective service system if required by the federal military selective service act (62 Stat. 604; 50 United States Code App. section 453).
- 31 E. A person may not be denied a right, privilege or benefit by 32 reason of subsection D $[OF\ THIS\ SECTION]$ if either of the following 33 applies:
- 1. The requirement for the person to so register has terminated or 35 become inapplicable to the person.
- 36 2. The person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the 37 failure of the person to register with the selective service system was 38 not a knowing and [willful] [WILFULL] failure to register.
- 39 [F. A PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO HOLD A STATE, COUNTY, CITY, TOWN OR 40 PRECINCT OFFICE IN THIS STATE, WHETHER ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE, AND A 41 CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OR COMMISSION MAY NOT BE ISSUED TO A PERSON WHO IS 42 DISQUALIFIED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION IF THE PERSON EITHER:
- 43 <u>1. IS REMOVED FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD</u> 44 <u>MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-302.01.</u>
- 45 <u>2. RESIGNED FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD</u>
 46 MEMBER UP TO ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS PLACED IN
 47 RECEIVERSHIP PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-103.]>>

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<<Sec. 4. County treasurer: warrants issued by a school
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                     <u>district in receivership; intent; delayed repeal</u>
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         [A. Notwithstanding any other law, the county treasurer shall
 4 register warrants in the total amount of $2,500,000 that are issued by a
 5 school district in receivership pursuant to section 15-103, Arizona
6 Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, and approved by the receiver
7 regardless of whether there are sufficient monies in the school district's
8 account.
         B. The legislature intends that warrants registered pursuant to
9
10 subsection A of this section be funded by basic state aid payments to the
11 <u>school district.</u>
        C. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2026.]>>
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13
         <<Sec. 5. Department of education; budget capacity
14
                     <u>calculation</u>: <u>school districts in receivership</u>:
15
                     delayed repeal
         [A. Notwithstanding any other law, the department of education may
16
17 not consider the cash balance or budget carryforward of a school district
18 that is placed in receivership in the third quarter of the 2024-2025
19 fiscal year when calculating the school district's budget capacity until
20 March 2025.
21
        B. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2026.]>>
22
         <<Sec. 6. <u>Emergency</u>
        [This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
24 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
25 law. 1>>
26 Enroll and engross to conform
27 Amend title to conform
   And, as so amended, it do pass
                                              MATT GRESS
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CHAIRMAN

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