



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2624

Yarnell Hill memorial; appropriation

Purpose

An emergency measure that establishes the Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board. Requires the Board to determine whether to establish a memorial site and appropriates \$500,000 to purchase that site.

Background

The Prescott Fire Department created a Wildland Division in 2001 to conduct a risk assessment and develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the City. The risk assessment found Prescott to be at risk of catastrophic wildfire. As a result, the Division formed a Fuels Management Crew to create defensible space on private and City-owned property. The 2002 Indian Fire led to an expansion of the crew's duties. In 2004, the Fuels Management Crew evolved into Crew 7, a Type 2 Initial Attack crew that, while continuing with fuels reduction work, responded to wildfires both regionally and nationally. Just before the 2007 season, Crew 7 gained IHC trainee status and became known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots. Following the IHC certification process, Granite Mountain became a certified IHC in 2008. (Yarnell Hill Fire Serious Accident Investigation 8)

The fiscal impact to the state General Fund (GF) is the amount of the appropriation contained in the bill.

Provisions

Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board

1. Establishes the Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board (Board) consisting of:
 - a) the Director of the Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB) or designee, who shall serve as the Chairperson;
 - b) the State Forester or designee;
 - c) two representatives from the county in which the Yarnell Hill fire occurred, who are appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - d) a representative from the largest city by population in the county in which the Yarnell Hill fire occurred, who is appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - e) a representative from the fire department in the largest city by population in the county in which the Yarnell Hill fire occurred, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - f) a representative from the Yarnell Fire District, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

- g) a representative from the Yarnell Chamber of Commerce, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - h) a surviving member of the Granite Mountain hotshot crew or a relative of a member of the Granite Mountain hotshot crew who lost his life fighting the Yarnell Hill fire, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - i) a relative of a member of the Granite Mountain hotshot crew who lost his life fighting the Yarnell Hill fire, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - j) a representative of a nonprofit organization in this state that supports public safety, who is appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - k) a representative of a recognized association representing public firefighters, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - l) a representative of the Arizona arts community or a person with substantial memorial design experience, who is appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - m) one member of the House of Representatives who represents the district in which the Yarnell Hill fire occurred, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as an advisory member; and
 - n) one member of the Senate who represents the district in which the Yarnell Hill fire occurred, who is appointed by the President of the Senate as an advisory member.
2. Entitles certain members of the Board to reimbursement from the Yarnell Hill memorial Fund (Fund) for reasonable expenses in traveling on and attending to official Board business, but prohibits all members from receiving compensation.
3. Requires the Board to:
- a) determine whether to establish a memorial. If the Board determines that the site should be memorialized, the Board shall establish the memorial and approve its design and construction;
 - b) determine whether the ASPB or a private party should purchase the land for the memorial site;
 - c) work with interested parties to design and construct the memorial;
 - d) plan for and secure the necessary permissions for individuals to visit the memorial;
 - e) seek to minimize the use of state general funds for the purchase, maintenance and preservation of the memorial;
 - f) plan for the maintenance and preservation of the memorial;
 - g) solicit private monetary donations or public monies for deposit in the Fund; and
 - h) submit a report on the progress of the memorial to the governor, Legislature and Secretary of State on or before December 31, 2015.
4. Repeals the Board on January 1, 2017.

Yarnell Hill Memorial State Park

5. Requires the ASPB to establish the Yarnell Hill Memorial State Park if:
- a) the Board recommends that the ASPB purchase the land for the memorial site;
 - b) the ASPB purchases the Yarnell Hill Memorial site;
 - c) the Board approves the design and construction of the memorial; and
 - d) the Board secures the necessary permissions for individuals to visit the memorial.

6. Allows the ASPB to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the county in which the park is located for the maintenance and preservation of the memorial and access road.

Yarnell Hill Memorial Fund

7. Establishes the Fund consisting of legislative appropriations and donations, and requires the Board to administer the Fund.
8. Requires that Fund monies must be used for purchasing land for the memorial, maintaining and preserving the memorial and access road, and reimbursement of Board members' travel expenses.
9. Requires the ASPB to administer the Fund, beginning on January 1, 2017.
10. Requires the State Treasurer to invest and divest monies in the fund, and requires monies earned from investment to be credited to the Fund.
11. Exempts the Fund from lapsing.

Miscellaneous

12. Appropriates \$500,000 from the state GF in FY 2014 to ASPB for the purpose of purchasing the memorial site. Exempts the amount from lapsing, and requires any amounts not used for the purchase to revert to the state GF.
13. Becomes effective on signature of the governor, if the emergency clause is enacted.

House Action

EENR	2/17/14	DPA	8-0-0-0
APPROP	2/19/14	DP	8-1-0-2
3 rd Read	3/5/14		56-2-2

Prepared by Senate Research
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CS/lc