



**City of Phoenix**

## **HB 2570: Municipalities; Vegetation Requirements; Prohibition**

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***The city of Phoenix respectfully requests that you OPPOSE HB 2570***

HB 2570 preempts cities and towns from ensuring sustainable development practices in regards to providing the community with adequate trees and vegetation. This bill would eliminate the local ability to regulate type and quantity of landscape materials for new development. If passed, it will decimate the landscape/shade requirements that Phoenix is trying to achieve to create a vibrant Downtown and walkable area long the light rail line. It also will negatively impact rezoning cases as the City will not be able to enforce any landscape requirements that could make new development blend in with the surrounding development better. Additionally, water demand (based on the overall use per capita) decreased by 25 percent in Phoenix during the 20-year period from 1994 through 2013. While this can be attributed to a number of factors, new landscape restrictions requiring the use of desert adapted plants were part of the City's comprehensive water conservation plan.

It is not just the trees and vegetation, but the correct selection and diversity of species appropriate to the area that is important. Establishing guidelines to foster the proper selection and placement is paramount to provide for the efficient use of water resources and maintenance dollars, help to reduce incidence of invasive plants and pests, and contribute the greatest benefit for the community.

Although a landowner should be able to develop private property to meet their needs and goals, this action should not come at the detriment of the surrounding community. Sustainable development should be just that; development which serves a given objective while working to support and maintain lasting benefits for all. The passage of HB 2570 will not achieve this goal. The actions of this legislation will only serve to further the benefits of a few at a loss to the community and the State of Arizona.



*For more information: City of Phoenix Government Relations Office: 602-256-4257*