

Looking Back

DCS Legislation Overview 2019



SB 1076 - Abducting Child from State Agency

- Makes it a felony offense if a person who has a reason to know that a child is in the custody of a state agency (DCS or ADJC):
 - Takes, entice or keeps the child from the custody of the agency (Class 3 if the child is taken outside the state and Class 4 if the child remains in the state at all times)
 - Intentionally fails, refuses, or impedes return of the child to the lawful custody of the state agency (Class 5 if the child is not returned immediately and Class 6 if the child is returned without injury within 48 hours)
- Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee
- Passed unanimously in the Senate and House

Implemented by AZ DCS Policy Chapter 4: Section 08.2



SB 1246 - Behavioral Health; Foster Children

- Integrates behavioral health services delivery with CMDP
 - Effective October 1, 2020
 - Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee
 - Passed unanimously in the Senate
 - Passed 59 Ayes to 1 Nays in the House

Delayed Effective Date



SB 1537 - Service Providers; fingerprint card

- Requires any adult who works in a group home, residential treatment center or other congregate care setting to have a completed central registry check.
- Brings the Department in line with Families First
- Requires the following individuals to have a valid fingerprint clearance card:
 - A person licensed by DCS or employed by the licensee;
 - A DCS contractor for the provision of services directly to juveniles or vulnerable adults; or
 - An adult working in a group home, residential treatment center, shelter or other congregate care setting.
- Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee
- Passed unanimously in the Senate and House

Emergency Clause 04/24/19



SB 1539 - Private Dependency Petitions

- Creates another judicial pathway for an interested party to file a dependency petition concerning a child who:
 - Has been adjudicated delinquent and is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court;
 - Awaiting delinquency adjudication or disposition; or
 - Released from ADJC within the previous six months
- By requiring the interested party to contact DCS at least 14 days before filing the petition and provides DCS with notice of intent to file the petition
- Requires the court to provide DCS with 72-hours notice, and a opportunity to be heard. conducting a hearing and allowing the Department to the heard.
 - Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee
 - Passed unanimously in the Senate
 - Passed 31 Ayes to 29 Nays in the House
 - Passed 29 Ayes to 9 Nays in Senate Final



SB 1539 - Extended Foster Care

- Aligns the extended foster care program for qualified young adults with the Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA)
- Allows the Department to draw down Title IV-E federal funds to pay for a portion of the Young Adult Program for children aged 18-21.
- Creates a young adult administrative review process of the voluntary extended foster care case plan.



SB 1539 - Adoption Subsidy

- Extends the adoption subsidy for youth adopted at aged 16 or 17 if any of the following apply:
 - Enrolled in educational program
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Participating in program or activity to promote employment/remove barriers to employment
 - Unable to be a full-time student or employed because of a documented medical condition



Looking Ahead

DCS Legislative Agenda 2020



Substance Exposed Newborn Substantiation

- Allows the Department to proceed with the process of substantiating an allegation of neglect with solely a toxicology report as its basis.
 - Reduce the regulatory burden by allowing the Department to proceed with substantiating an allegation without a medical professional to certify the results of a toxicology report of a substance exposed newborn
- Protects more children by allowing Agency to properly identify the persons who will be placed on the DCS on the Central Registry.
- Ensures that the toxicology or other laboratory tests that show a newborn was exposed prenatally to a drug or substance is the information needed to be placed on the Central Registry.



Time for
Questions or Comments

