



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2511

diversion; juveniles; conditions

Purpose

Allows a juvenile offender to voluntarily participate in a religious program that is approved by the court.

Background

Except as outlined, before a petition is filed or an admission or adjudication hearing is held, the county attorney may divert the prosecution of a juvenile who is accused of committing a delinquent act or a child who is accused of committing an incorrigible act to a community based alternative program or to a diversion program administered by the juvenile court.

If the county attorney diverts the prosecution of a juvenile to the juvenile court, the juvenile probation officer must conduct a personal interview with the alleged juvenile offender. If the juvenile acknowledges responsibility for the delinquent or incorrigible act, the juvenile probation officer must require that the juvenile comply with one or more of the following conditions: 1) participation in unpaid community restitution work; 2) participation in a counseling program that is approved by the court and that is designed to strengthen family relationships and to prevent repetitive juvenile delinquency; 3) participation in an education program that is approved by the court with the goal of preventing further delinquent behavior; 4) participation in an education program that is approved by the court and that is designed to deal with ancillary problems experienced by the juvenile, such as alcohol or drug abuse; 5) participation in a nonresidential program of rehabilitation or supervision that is offered by the court or offered by a community youth serving agency and approved by the court; 6) payment of restitution to the victim of the delinquent act; or 7) payment of a monetary assessment that may be satisfied through community restitution ([A.R.S. § 8-321](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Allows a juvenile offender to voluntarily participate in a religious program that is approved by the court.
2. Allows the voluntary religious program to be substituted for one of the other outlined diversion programs.
3. Prohibits, in the purpose of the religious program, including any effort to coerce the juvenile offender to adopt or change any religious affiliation or beliefs.

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4. Makes technical and conforming changes.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

JUD	2/7/24	DPA	8-0-0-1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	2/22/24		54-4-1-0-1

Prepared by Senate Research  
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