



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session

Senate: HHS DPA/SE 8-0-0-0 | 3rd Read 29-0-1-0

House: HHS DP 8-0-0-1

SB 1076: DCS; hotline allegation data; evaluation

Sponsor: Senator Barto, LD 15

House Engrossed

Overview

Directs the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to engage an independent advanced analytics consultant to identify associations between hotline allegations data within DCS reports and the need for protective service response.

History

The [Arizona Child Abuse Hotline](#) is operated by DCS for the purpose of receiving communications concerning suspected child abuse and neglect. The Arizona Child Abuse Hotline allows any individual who reasonably believes a minor to be a victim of abuse to report the suspected child abuse through a toll-free telephone number and electronic reporting service. Specific accusations of child abuse may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, exploitation and abandonment.

Statute outlines what must be included in the DCS report. A hotline worker is required to prepare a DCS report if the identity or current location of the child victim, child's family or the person suspected of abuse or neglect is known or can be reasonably ascertained to and if all of the following is alleged: 1) the suspected conduct would constitute abuse or neglect; 2) the suspected victim is under eighteen years of age and is a resident of or present in this state; and 3) the person suspected of committing the abuse or neglect is the parent, guardian or custodian of the victim or an adult member of the victim's household. Except for criminal conduct allegations, DCS is not required to prepare a DCS report if the suspected conduct occurred more than three years before the communication on the hotline or if there is no information or indication that a child is currently being abused or neglected ([A.R.S. § 8-455](#)).

[Laws 2017, Chapter 282, Sec. 5](#), establishes the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on DCS (DCS Committee) and outlines membership and requires them to review: 1) DCS's implementation of policy and procedures and program effectiveness; 2) all reports on program outcomes released by DCS for trends and areas for statutory improvement and audits issued by the Office of the Auditor General related to DCS; and 3) policies and procedures relating to guardianships and dependency proceedings. The DCS Committee must meet at least biannually and ends on July 1, 2025.

Provisions

1. Directs DCS to engage an independent consultant with expertise in advanced analytics to identify statistically significant associations between hotline allegation data within DCS reports and the need for protective service response. (Sec. 1)
2. Specifies that hotline allegation data must include the subcategories of abuse and neglect recorded by the DCS hotline on receipt of a DCS hotline report. (Sec. 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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3. Outlines what must be provided in the independent evaluation. (Sec. 1)
4. Requires the independent consultant to submit a report of its work to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Co-chairpersons of the DCS Committee and provide a copy to the Secretary of State by July 1, 2023. (Sec. 1)
5. Contains a repeal date of January 1, 2024. (Sec. 1)