



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1092

deaf; hard of hearing; deafblind

Purpose

Requires the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) to act as a bureau of information for the *deafblind* and organizations providing services for the *deafblind*. Requires ACDHH to make recommendations to the Legislature on statutory changes to optimize the language acquisition and literacy development of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Background

ACDHH provides information to the deaf and the hard of hearing to improve their quality of life. Under current law, ACDHH's duties include, but are not limited to: 1) informing the deaf and the hard of hearing of available services; 2) studying issues relating to the deaf and the hard of hearing, and making recommendations on these issues; 3) reviewing the problems of the deaf and the hard of hearing relating to the need for auxiliary aids in public places; 4) making recommendations to state organizations on meeting the needs of the hard of hearing; and 5) making recommendations to the Legislature regarding statutory changes needed for a statewide newborn child hearing loss screening program ([A.R.S. § 36-1944](#)).

According to federal law, *deaf-blind* means any individual who: 1) has a combination of visual loss and chronic hearing impairment that causes difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities; 2) despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss, has severe hearing and visual disabilities that cause difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities; or 3) meets other requirements prescribed by the U.S. Secretary of Education ([29 U.S.C. § 1905](#)).

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

Provisions

1. Requires ACDHH to act as a bureau of information to the deafblind, state agencies and institutions providing services to the deafblind, local agencies of government and other public or private community agencies and programs.
2. Requires ACDHH to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding statutory changes needed:
 - a) to develop and support statewide newborn child hearing loss screening programs; and
 - b) on assessment standards that optimize the language acquisition and literacy development of deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants and children.

FACT SHEET

S.B. 1092

Page 2

3. Requires ACDHH to make recommendations to state agencies, political subdivisions and institutions on how to meet the needs of the deaf, the hard of hearing and the deafblind.
4. Defines *deafblind*.
5. Makes technical and conforming changes.
6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

January 22, 2021

CRS/kja