



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1093

developmental disabilities; spina bifida

Purpose

Modifies the definition of *developmental disability* to include a severe, chronic disability that is attributable to spina bifida.

Background

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, spina bifida is a type of neural tube defect which is usually apparent at birth and can cause chiari II malformation, which can lead to compression of the spinal cord and cause a variety of symptoms, including: 1) difficulties with feeding, swallowing and breathing control; 2) choking; and 3) changes in upper arm function. Additionally, spina bifida can cause hydrocephalus, resulting in extra fluid in and around the brain that can cause swelling, brain damage and fatality ([CDC](#)). According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, approximately 34 babies are born in Arizona with some form of spina bifida each year ([DHS](#)).

A *developmental disability* is a severe, chronic disability which: 1) is attributable to cognitive disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or autism; 2) is manifested before age 18; 3) is likely to continue indefinitely; and 4) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: a) self-care; b) receptive and expressive language; c) learning; d) mobility; e) self-direction; f) capacity for independent living; and g) economic self-sufficiency ([A.R.S. § 36-551](#)).

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) of the Department of Economic Security provides services to individuals diagnosed with developmental and intellectual disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy. Services provided by DDD include: 1) attendant care; 2) habilitation; 3) home health aide; 4) home nursing; 5) occupational, physical and speech therapies; 6) respite care; and 7) medical services.

According to a Joint Legislative Budget Committee fiscal note for a similar measure considered during the 2020 legislative session, there is an estimated annual impact of \$16.4 million to the state General Fund associated with this legislation ([JLBC Fiscal Note](#)).

Provisions

1. Modifies the definition of *developmental disability* to include a severe, chronic disability that is attributable to spina bifida.

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2. Defines *spina bifida*.
3. Makes technical changes.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

January 22, 2021

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