

Senate Engrossed
special education; cost studies

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SENATE BILL 1519

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-236, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES;
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-236, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-236. Special education programs; program and fiscal
5 audits; cost studies; appropriations; exemption

6 A. The department of education shall conduct program and fiscal
7 audits of selected district special education programs. The audits shall
8 be designed to determine the degree of compliance with existing statutes
9 and regulations and the appropriate placement of students in special
10 education programs. A report of the findings of such audits shall be
11 completed on or before February 3 of each year. If the department of
12 education determines that a child has been inappropriately placed in a
13 special education program of a school district, the district's weighted
14 student count for educational support services for students in group B as
15 provided in section 15-943 shall be recomputed and the district's
16 entitlement to state aid adjusted accordingly.

17 B. For each fiscal year the department of education shall request a
18 separate line item appropriation for program and fiscal audits of special
19 education programs in the budget estimate submitted pursuant to section
20 35-113.

21 C. ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2023 AND EVERY FOUR YEARS THEREAFTER, THE
22 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL COMPLETE A COST STUDY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
23 PROGRAMS. THIS STUDY SHALL INCLUDE THE COST OF PROVIDING SPECIAL
24 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO STUDENTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 4 OF THIS
25 TITLE. THE SUM OF \$500,000 IS APPROPRIATED FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND IN
26 FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND EVERY FOUR FISCAL YEARS THEREAFTER TO THE
27 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPLETING THE COST STUDY OF
28 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION. THE
29 APPROPRIATIONS MADE IN THIS SUBSECTION ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF
30 SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS.