

REFERENCE TITLE: **child welfare; reporting requirements**

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SB 1622

Introduced by
Senator Gonzales

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-526, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE AND PLACEMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 8-526, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 8-526. Child welfare; reporting requirements

5 A. The department shall make available program and outcomes data on
6 its website as provided in this section, in a format that can be
7 downloaded and that is conducive to analysis.

8 B. The department shall make available the following information on
9 a semiannual basis by September 30 for the period ending the prior June 30
10 and by March 31 for the period ending the prior December 31:

11 1. Success in meeting training requirements.

12 2. Caseloads for child safety workers.

13 3. The number of new reports and reports that have been closed.

14 4. The number of case-carrying caseworkers in each region.

15 5. The number of investigations by region.

16 6. The number of children being served in-home and the number of
17 children being served out-of-home by each region.

18 7. The total number of reports received, by major category and by
19 priority.

20 8. The number of reports not responded to, by priority, by county
21 and statewide.

22 9. The number of reports assigned for investigation by priority and
23 by major category, by county and statewide for the current and previous
24 reporting periods.

25 10. The number of reports for investigations completed by priority
26 and by major category, by county and statewide for the current and
27 previous reporting periods and as categorized by investigations that
28 resulted in:

29 (a) A substantiated report.

30 (b) A report currently proposed for substantiation.

31 (c) An unsubstantiated report, **INCLUDING THE REASON THE REPORT WAS**
32 **CONSIDERED UNSUBSTANTIATED.**

33 11. The number of reports assigned for investigation that remain
34 open for investigation by priority and by major category, by county and
35 statewide for the current and previous reporting periods.

36 12. Of the number of children reported to the department, the
37 percentage of children placed in out-of-home care by county and statewide.

38 13. The number of newborn infants delivered to safe haven providers
39 pursuant to section 13-3623.01.

40 14. The number of children entering out-of-home care by county
41 during the reporting period, and the number and percentage of the children
42 entering out-of-home care by county during the reporting period who are
43 voluntary placements for children under eighteen years of age.

1 15. The number and percentage of children removed during the
2 reporting period, by county and statewide, who had been in out-of-home
3 care:

4 (a) Within the previous twelve months.

5 (b) Within the previous twenty-four months, excluding the children
6 included in subdivision (a) of this paragraph.

7 16. The number and percentage of children who have remained in a
8 shelter or receiving home for more than twenty-one consecutive days, by
9 the child's age group.

10 17. The total number of licensed foster homes, the number of
11 licensed foster homes considered kinship homes, the number of licensed
12 community foster homes and the number of available spaces in licensed
13 community foster homes.

14 18. The number of licensed foster homes that receive the required
15 visitation by licensing agency representatives pursuant to section 8-516.

16 19. The number of children placed in the care, custody and control
17 of the department at the end of the reporting period and the number of
18 these children who receive the required visitation by case managers
19 pursuant to section 8-516.

20 20. The number and percentage of children who are in the care,
21 custody and control of the department at the end of the reporting period
22 and who are in out-of-home placement and as categorized by:

23 (a) Age.

24 (b) Ethnicity.

25 (c) Case plan goal.

26 (d) Type of out-of-home placement, categorized by age.

27 (e) Length of time in out-of-home placement of less than thirty
28 days, thirty-one days to twelve consecutive months, twelve to twenty-four
29 consecutive months and more than twenty-four consecutive months, including
30 the median, average and range of the number of out-of-home placements.

31 (f) Primary legal status including voluntary placement for a child
32 under eighteen years of age, temporary custody, adjudicated dependent,
33 free for adoption, voluntary placement for a child over eighteen years of
34 age, dually adjudicated or any other legal status.

35 21. If the case plan is to return the child to the parent, the
36 percentage of parents who receive the required contact by case managers.

37 22. The number and percentage of children who left the custody of
38 the department during the reporting period by reason for leaving care and
39 as categorized by:

40 (a) Age.

41 (b) Ethnicity.

42 (c) Number of placements.

43 (d) Average length of time in care.

1 23. The number of children with a petition for termination of
2 parental rights granted and not granted during the reporting period by
3 county and statewide.

4 24. The number and percentage of children with a case plan goal of
5 adoption and who are not placed in an adoptive home at the end of the
6 reporting period and as categorized by:

- 7 (a) Age.
- 8 (b) Ethnicity.
- 9 (c) Average length of time in care.
- 10 (d) Legal status.

11 25. The number and percentage of children with a case plan goal of
12 adoption and who are placed in an adoptive home at the end of the
13 reporting period and as categorized by:

- 14 (a) Age.
- 15 (b) Ethnicity.
- 16 (c) Average length of time in out-of-home placement.
- 17 (d) Length of time from change of case plan goal to adoptive
18 placement.
- 19 (e) Legal status.
- 20 (f) Marital status and relationship of the adoptive parent or
21 parents to the child.

22 26. The number of children whose adoptive placement was disrupted
23 during the reporting period and as categorized by:

- 24 (a) Age.
- 25 (b) Ethnicity.
- 26 (c) Cause of the disruption.
- 27 (d) Marital status and relationship of the adoptive parent or
28 parents to the child.

29 27. The number of children whose adoptions were finalized during
30 the reporting period and as categorized by:

- 31 (a) Average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive
32 placement.
- 33 (b) Average length of time in adoptive placement before the final
34 order of adoption.
- 35 (c) Marital status and relationship of the adoptive parent or
36 parents to the child.

37 28. The number of children who died while in the custody of the
38 department by the county where the death occurred and as categorized by:

- 39 (a) The cause of death.
- 40 (b) The type of out-of-home placement at the time of death.

41 29. The number of children with an open or active child safety
42 services case who died due to abuse, categorized by the person or persons
43 who had care or custody of the child at the time of the child's death as
44 follows:

- 45 (a) Biological parent or parents.

1 (b) Other family member.

2 (c) Adoptive parent or parents.

3 (d) Foster care parent or parents.

4 (e) Other out-of-home care provider.

5 30. The number of children with an open or active child safety
6 services case who died due to abuse allegedly caused by an adult household
7 member who is not listed pursuant to paragraph 29 of this subsection.

8 31. The ratio of supervisors to specialists by region.

9 32. The source and use of federal monies in the department.

10 33. The source and use of state monies in the department.

11 C. Based on the data presented in each reporting period, the
12 department, in as brief a format as possible, shall describe three to five
13 major challenges the department faces in achieving the goal of safe,
14 permanent homes for abused and neglected children.

15 D. Within three months after the end of each reporting period the
16 department shall submit a written report in as brief a format as possible
17 to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
18 representatives, the chairperson of the house human services committee,
19 the chairperson of the senate family services committee, or their
20 successor committees, and the cochairpersons of the joint legislative
21 committee on children and family services. The department shall submit a
22 copy of the report to the secretary of state.

23 E. The department shall make available the following information on
24 an annual basis:

25 1. The percentage of substantiations upheld by the office of
26 administrative hearings.

27 2. The demographics and number of children placed with relative
28 caregivers.

29 3. The demographics of kinship foster caregivers.

30 4. The number of relative children per kinship foster care family.

31 5. The department's success at maintaining kinship foster care
32 placements.

33 6. The type and cost of services provided to kinship foster care
34 families by licensed and unlicensed caregivers.

35 7. The cost of services provided to kinship foster caregivers
36 compared to the cost of out-of-home placements.

37 8. The number of children and families, by district, receiving
38 services through the housing assistance program during the previous fiscal
39 year.

40 9. The total amount of money spent on the housing assistance
41 program by region.

42 10. A programmatic and fiscal evaluation of the effectiveness of
43 the housing assistance program that includes the amount of foster care
44 expenditures avoided.

1 11. The number of children in the independent living program by
2 age, county and education status.

3 12. Beginning with the 2022 data period, the statewide number of
4 children in substantiated reports for investigation that are received in
5 the twelve months before the current annual reporting period and that
6 allege neglect as defined in section 8-201, paragraph 25, ~~subsection~~
7 **SUBDIVISION** (c) and the number of children in these reports who were:

8 (a) Removed within thirty days after the date the report is
9 received.

10 (b) Removed within six months after the date the report is
11 received.

12 F. The department shall make available the following information on
13 a monthly basis:

14 1. Operations and workforce data measures that include:

15 (a) Staff vacancy levels by position category and turnover.

16 (b) New hires, separations, turnover and voluntary attrition
17 delineated by field position, safety specialists, hotline staff,
18 caseworkers in training, program, program supervisors, case aides, office
19 of child welfare investigations staff and administrative staff.

20 (c) Hotline performance.

21 (d) Reports received by maltreatment type, priority and response
22 time.

23 (e) Inactive cases by disposition.

24 (f) Open reports.

25 (g) Entries and exits from the foster care population by exit type.

26 (h) Support service provision.

27 (i) Demographics, placement types and case plan goals of the foster
28 care population.

29 (j) The number and type of licensed foster homes that leave the
30 foster care system and the reason for the exit.

31 2. Financial data that compares total expenditures each month and
32 year-to-date as compared to prior year totals, appropriation totals and
33 projected expenditure totals, delineated by appropriation and appropriated
34 fund source.

35 G. The department shall make the information required pursuant to
36 subsection F of this section available within sixty days after the end of
37 the applicable reporting period.

38 H. The department shall notify the president of the senate, the
39 speaker of the house of representatives, the director of the joint
40 legislative budget committee and the director of the governor's office of
41 strategic planning and budgeting when an update is made on information
42 that must be made available pursuant to subsection B or F of this section.