



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FINAL AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2059

DCS information; governor access

Purpose

Adds the Governor to the list of individuals to whom the Department of Child Safety (DCS) is required to provide access to DCS information.

Background

DCS information is required to be maintained by DCS per federal regulations and includes all information DCS gathers during the course of an investigation conducted from the time a file is opened and until it is closed. DCS information does not include information that is contained in child welfare agency licensing records (A.R.S. § 8-807).

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807, DCS is required to provide access to DCS information to the following persons as a means of oversight, if DCS information is reasonably necessary for the person to perform the person's official duties: 1) federal or state auditors; 2) persons conducting any accreditation deemed necessary by DCS; 3) a standing committee of the Legislature or a committee appointed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives for purposes of conducting investigations related to the legislative oversight; 4) a legislator who requests DCS information in the regular course of the legislator's duties; 5) a citizen review panel, a child fatality review team and the Office Ombudsman-Citizens Aide; and 6) a human rights committee on persons with developmental disability.

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

Provisions

1. Adds the Governor to the list of persons DCS is required to provide access to DCS information if the DCS information is reasonably necessary for the person to perform the person's official duties.
2. Requires the Governor not disclose DCS information unless:
 - a) a court has ordered the disclosure of the information;
 - b) the information has been disclosed in a public or court record; or
 - c) the information has been disclosed in the course of a public meeting or court proceeding.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Requires the Governor to only disclose DCS information under outlined circumstances.

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House Action

CFA	1/25/16	DP	8-0-0-1
3 rd Read	2/4/16		56-0-4-0
Final Read	3/23/16		57-0-3-0

Senate Action

HHS	3/2/16	DPA	6-0-1
3 rd Read	3/17/16		29-0-1

Signed by the Governor 3/23/16
Chapter 61

Prepared by Senate Research
March 29, 2016
EM/PB/lis