

REFERENCE TITLE: **mental health courts; establishment**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

HB 2310

Introduced by
Representative Farnsworth E

AN ACT

**AMENDING TITLE 12, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING
SECTION 12-132; RELATING TO THE SUPERIOR COURT.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 12, chapter 1, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 12-132, to read:

4 12-132. Mental health courts: establishment; eligibility for
5 referral; intergovernmental agreements for regional
6 courts; authority to adjudicate

7 A. THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN EACH COUNTY MAY
8 ESTABLISH A MENTAL HEALTH COURT TO ADJUDICATE CASES FILED IN THE SUPERIOR
9 COURT IN THE COUNTY.

10 B. THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT SHALL ESTABLISH THE
11 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT.

12 C. A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER A CASE THAT MEETS
13 THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA MAY REFER THE CASE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT.

14 D. THE ORIGINATING COURT SHALL NOTIFY THE PROSECUTOR OF ANY CRIMINAL
15 CASE REFERRED TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT.

16 E. IN COUNTIES THAT HAVE A POPULATION OF LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY
17 THOUSAND PERSONS THE PRESIDING JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT MAY ENTER INTO AN
18 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH EACH OTHER TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL MENTAL
19 HEALTH COURT. A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE IN A COUNTY THAT HAS ENTERED INTO AN
20 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT MAY REFER A CASE TO THE REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
21 COURT. ANY JUDICIAL OFFICER IN A COUNTY THAT HAS ENTERED INTO AN
22 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUDICATE A CASE REFERRED
23 TO A REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH COURT.