

REFERENCE TITLE: special education; cost studies

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

SB 1625

Introduced by
Senator Quezada

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-236, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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

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 DECEMBER 1, 2021 AND EVERY TWO YEARS THEREAFTER,
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL COMPLETE A COST STUDY OF SPECIAL
23 EDUCATION PROGRAMS. THIS STUDY SHALL INCLUDE THE COST OF PROVIDING
24 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PUPILS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 4 OF
25 THIS TITLE.