

Senate Engrossed

independent living program; stipend

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

SENATE BILL 1325

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-521, 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 8-521, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 8-521. Independent living program; conditions; eligibility;
5 rules; case management unit; progress reports

6 A. The department or a licensed child welfare agency may establish
7 an independent living program for youths who are the subject of a
8 dependency petition or who are adjudicated dependent and are all of the
9 following:

10 1. In the custody of the department, a licensed child welfare
11 agency or a tribal child welfare agency.

12 2. At least seventeen years of age.

13 3. Employed or full-time students.

14 B. The independent living program may consist of a residential
15 program of less than twenty-four hours a day supervision for youths under
16 the supervision of the department through a licensed child welfare agency
17 or a foster home under contract with the department. Under the
18 independent living program, the youth is not required to reside at a
19 licensed child welfare agency or foster home.

20 C. The director or the director's designee shall review and approve
21 any recommendation to the court that a youth in the custody of the
22 department be ordered to an independent living program.

23 D. For a youth to participate in an independent living program, the
24 court must order such a disposition pursuant to section 8-845.

25 E. The department of child safety, a licensed child welfare agency
26 or a tribal child welfare agency having custody of the youth shall provide
27 the cost of care as required by section 8-453, subsection A, paragraph 9,
28 subdivision (b), item (iii) for each child placed in an independent living
29 program pursuant to this section, except that the monthly amount provided
30 shall not ~~exceed the average monthly cost of purchased services for the~~
31 ~~child in the three months immediately preceding placement in an~~
32 ~~independent living program~~ BE LESS THAN \$1,200.

33 F. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to title 41, chapter 6
34 to carry out this section.

35 G. The department shall provide quarterly progress reports to the
36 court and to local foster care review boards for each youth participating
37 in the independent living program.

38 H. The local foster care review boards shall review at least once
39 every six months the case of each youth participating in the independent
40 living program.

- 1 I. The department shall establish an educational case management
- 2 unit within the division consisting of two case managers to develop and
- 3 coordinate educational case management plans for youths participating in
- 4 the independent living program and to assist youths in the program to do
- 5 the following:
- 6 1. Graduate from high school.
- 7 2. Pass the statewide assessment pursuant to section 15-741.
- 8 3. Apply for postsecondary financial assistance.
- 9 4. Apply for postsecondary education.