

REFERENCE TITLE: housing trust fund; rural areas

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

## **SB 1278**

Introduced by  
Senator Shamp

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 41-3955, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 41-3955, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 41-3955. Housing trust fund; purpose; annual report

5 A. The housing trust fund is established, and the director shall  
6 administer the fund. The fund consists of monies from unclaimed property  
7 **THAT ARE** deposited in the fund pursuant to section 44-313, monies **THAT ARE**  
8 transferred pursuant to section 35-751 and investment earnings.

9 B. On notice from the department, the state treasurer shall invest  
10 and divest monies in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies  
11 earned from investment shall be credited to the fund.

12 C. Except as provided in subsection D of this section, fund monies  
13 shall be spent on approval of the department for developing projects and  
14 programs connected with providing housing opportunities for low and  
15 moderate income households and for housing affordability programs.  
16 ~~Pursuant to section 44-313, subsection A,~~ A portion of fund monies shall  
17 be used exclusively for housing in rural areas.

18 D. Fund monies may be spent on constructing or renovating  
19 facilities and on housing assistance, including support services, for  
20 persons who have been determined to be seriously mentally ill and to be  
21 chronically resistant to treatment.

22 E. For the purposes of subsection C of this section, in approving  
23 the expenditure of monies, the director shall give priority to funding  
24 projects that provide for operating, constructing or renovating facilities  
25 for housing for low-income families and that provide housing and shelter  
26 to families that have children.

27 F. The director shall report annually to the legislature on the  
28 status of the housing trust fund. The report shall include a summary of  
29 facilities for which funding was provided during the preceding fiscal year  
30 and shall show the cost and geographic location of each facility and the  
31 number of individuals benefiting from the operation, construction or  
32 renovation of the facility. The report shall also include the number of  
33 individuals who benefit from housing assistance pursuant to subsection D  
34 of this section **AND A SUMMARY OF THE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR WHICH**  
35 **FUNDING WAS PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS.** The report  
36 shall be submitted to the president of the senate and the speaker of the  
37 house of representatives, and a copy provided to the secretary of state,  
38 not later than September 1 of each year.

39 G. Monies in the housing trust fund are exempt from the provisions  
40 of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations.

41 H. An amount not to exceed ten percent of the housing trust fund  
42 monies may be appropriated annually by the legislature to the department  
43 for administrative costs in providing services relating to the housing  
44 trust fund.

1           I. For any construction project financed by the department pursuant  
2 to this section, the department shall notify a city, town, county or  
3 tribal government that a project is planned for its jurisdiction and,  
4 before proceeding, shall seek comment from the governing body of the city,  
5 town, county or tribal government or an official authorized by the  
6 governing body of the city, town, county or tribal government. The  
7 department shall not interfere with or attempt to override the local  
8 jurisdiction's planning, zoning or land use regulations.