

House Engrossed

child neglect; financial resources; exception

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 2041

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-201.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO CHILD
NEGLECT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 8-201.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 8-201.01. Prohibitions

5 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or chapter
6 4, articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of this title:

7 1. A child who in good faith is being furnished Christian Science
8 treatment by a duly accredited practitioner shall not, for that reason
9 alone, be considered to be an abused, neglected or dependent child.

10 2. A child whose parent, guardian or custodian refuses to put the
11 child on a psychiatric medication or questions the use of a psychiatric
12 medication shall not be considered to be an abused, neglected or dependent
13 child for that reason alone.

14 B. A parent may not be considered as having abused, neglected or
15 abandoned or **BE** charged with abuse, neglect or abandonment of a
16 biological, foster or adoptive child solely for seeking inpatient
17 treatment or an out-of-home placement if the child's behavioral health
18 needs pose a risk to the safety and welfare of the family.

19 C. A parent may not be considered as having abused or neglected or
20 **BE** charged with abuse or neglect of a child solely for bringing into the
21 home a biological, foster or adoptive child whose behavioral health needs
22 pose a risk to the safety and welfare of the family.

23 **D. A PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING**
24 **ABUSED OR NEGLECTED OR BE CHARGED WITH ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD SOLELY**
25 **BASED ON THE INABILITY OF THE PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN TO PROVIDE THE**
26 **CHILD WITH SUPERVISION, FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER OR MEDICAL CARE IF THE**
27 **INABILITY IS DUE SOLELY TO A LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE**
28 **PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN.**