

House Engrossed

~~Language acquisition grant program~~
(now: program; language acquisition grant)

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

HOUSE BILL 2188

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 41-2023; RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 41, chapter 14, article 5, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 41-2023, to read:
4 41-2023. Language acquisition grant program
5 A. THE LANGUAGE ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING
6 OF MONIES APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LISTENING
7 AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE PROVIDERS THAT PROVIDE AUDITORY VERBAL SERVICES TO
8 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ELIGIBLE INFANTS AND TODDLERS WHO
9 ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO
10 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT
11 PROGRAM BY CONTRACTING WITH ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS AND MAY ADOPT RULES,
12 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.
13 B. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH LISTENING AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE
14 PROVIDERS IN THIS STATE TO PROVIDE AUDITORY VERBAL SERVICES TO EARLY
15 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ELIGIBLE FAMILIES WITH INFANTS AND
16 TODDLERS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING. CONTRACTORS SHALL ENSURE THAT
17 THE PROVIDED AUDITORY VERBAL SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED BY OR OVERSEEN BY A
18 CERTIFIED EDUCATOR OR THERAPIST IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, CLINICAL
19 SETTING, EDUCATIONAL SETTING OR VIRTUALLY.
20 C. THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SHALL REFER
21 ELIGIBLE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE IDENTIFIED AS DEAF OR HARD OF
22 HEARING TO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING, AT A MINIMUM:
23 1. QUALIFIED PROVIDERS WITHIN THE LANGUAGE ACQUISITION GRANT
24 PROGRAM FOR LISTENING AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE AUDITORY VERBAL SERVICES.
25 2. THE ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND FOR VISUAL
26 LANGUAGE EDUCATION THROUGH AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND ANY OTHER MODALITIES
27 OF COMMUNICATION AVAILABLE.