

REFERENCE TITLE: rental assistance program; appropriation

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

HB 2682

Introduced by
Representatives Hernandez A: Hernandez C, Hernandez L, Luna-Nájera, Peña,
Rivero, Volk, Wilmeth; Senator Gonzales

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 41-1971; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF ECONOMIC SECURITY.

(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 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 41-1971, to read:

4 41-1971. Rental assistance program; rules; requirements;
5 notice

6 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE RENTAL
7 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING THE FORMS,
8 PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM AND SHALL MAKE ALL FORMS AVAILABLE ON
9 THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE FOR TENANTS IN THIS STATE TO APPLY.

10 B. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
11 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, A TENANT MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING
12 REQUIREMENTS:

13 1. HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN LIVING IN THE
14 RENTAL HOME.

15 2. HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THE RENTAL HOME FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS.

16 3. NOT BE MORE THAN TWO MONTHS BEHIND IN RENT.

17 4. NOT ACCEPT RENTAL ASSISTANCE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

18 5. SHOW PROOF OF INCOME TO PAY THE RENT GOING FORWARD AFTER THE
19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

20 6. BE FACING AN UNEXPECTED AND TEMPORARY FINANCIAL EMERGENCY.

21 C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE OR DENY AN APPLICATION FOR THE
22 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE
23 TENANT'S APPLICATION AND SEND WRITTEN NOTICE OF ITS DECISION TO THE TENANT
24 AND THE LANDLORD. A WRITTEN NOTICE OF APPROVAL SHALL INCLUDE THE TOTAL
25 AMOUNT OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED AND AN ACCOUNTING OF THE SPECIFIC
26 MONTHS THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WILL COVER.

27 D. RENTAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE GRANTED TO A TENANT ONLY ONCE EVERY
28 TWELVE MONTHS. TENANTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR UP
29 TO TWO MONTHS OR OF \$5,000, WHICH EVER IS LESS. IF APPROVED, THE RENTAL
30 ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SHALL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE LANDLORD. IF THE
31 LANDLORD REFUSES TO DIRECTLY ACCEPT THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FROM THE
32 DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO THE TENANT
33 AND SHALL NOTIFY THE LANDLORD OF THE PAYMENT.

34 E. A TENANT IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE DELINQUENT ON RENT TO APPLY FOR
35 THE PROGRAM. RENTAL ASSISTANCE MAY COVER UPCOMING RENTAL PAYMENTS. ANY
36 PROSPECTIVE RENTAL PAYMENTS INCLUDED IN THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE
37 DELINEATED IN THE WRITTEN NOTICE OF APPROVAL TO THE TENANT AND THE
38 LANDLORD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION.

39 F. IF A TENANT IS DELINQUENT ON RENT, THE LANDLORD SHALL VERIFY
40 WITH THE DEPARTMENT THE BALANCE THAT IS DUE. IF THE LANDLORD REFUSES TO
41 PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE BALANCE, THE
42 TENANT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT THE DETAILS REGARDING THE BALANCE.

43 G. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH OR CONTRACT WITH A PROVIDER IN
44 THIS STATE TO ESTABLISH A FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS FOR TENANTS
45 REQUESTING RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

1 H. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A LANDLORD THAT ACCEPTS RENTAL
2 ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR THE TENANT MAY NOT EVICT THE
3 TENANT FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT FOR THE MONTHS THAT ARE COVERED BY THE
4 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

5 Sec. 2. Appropriation; department of economic security;
6 exemption

7 A. The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
8 fund in fiscal year 2026-2027 to the department of economic security for
9 the purposes of the rental assistance program established by section
10 41-1971, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.

11 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
12 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
13 to lapsing of appropriations.