

REFERENCE TITLE: DCS; memorandum of understanding; tribes

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1125

Introduced by
Senator Werner

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 8-469.03; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 8, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 8-469.03, to read:

4 8-469.03. Indian tribes; memorandum of understanding

5 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE EFFORTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS TO ENTER INTO A
6 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EACH INDIAN TRIBE LOCATED IN THIS STATE
7 THAT DOES NOT HAVE A CURRENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
8 DEPARTMENT. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MUST:

9 1. REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES, POLICIES,
10 TRAINING MATERIALS AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO THE
11 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 12 (a) INTAKE.
- 13 (b) INVESTIGATIONS.
- 14 (c) PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN.
- 15 (d) CASE MANAGEMENT.
- 16 (e) SERVICE COORDINATION.

17 2. IDENTIFY A DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT TRIBAL LIAISON WHO IS ASSIGNED
18 TO THE SPECIFIC TRIBE THAT IS A PARTY TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
19 AND WHO WILL COORDINATE COMMUNICATION WITH THE TRIBE, PROVIDE TECHNICAL
20 ASSISTANCE TO THE TRIBE AND SUPPORT COLLABORATION WITH THE TRIBE ON CHILD
21 WELFARE MATTERS.

22 3. ESTABLISH A PROCESS THAT ALLOWS THE TRIBE THAT IS A PARTY TO THE
23 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ACCESS REGULATORY ACTIONS, LICENSING
24 ACTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT
25 AGAINST ANY DEPARTMENT-LICENSED GROUP HOME IN WHICH A CHILD WHO IS A
26 MEMBER OF THE TRIBE IS PLACED. THE TRIBE SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OF THE
27 FOLLOWING:

- 28 (a) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS.
- 29 (b) LICENSING SANCTIONS OR SUSPENSIONS.
- 30 (c) SUBSTANTIATED HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.
- 31 (d) ANY OTHER REGULATORY ACTIONS RELATED TO CHILD WELFARE, SAFETY
32 OR CARE STANDARDS.