

REFERENCE TITLE: children; incarcerated parents task force

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

SB 1320

Introduced by
Senators Ortiz: Kuby; Representatives Aguilar, Liguori

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS TASK FORCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Children of incarcerated parents task force:
3 membership; duties; report; delayed repeal

4 A. The children of incarcerated parents task force is established
5 consisting of:

6 1. The following members who are appointed by the governor.

7 (a) Two members who are from an organization that advocates for
8 adolescents, youth or incarcerated parents in this state.

9 (b) Two members who are the adult children of a parent who has been
10 incarcerated.

11 (c) Two members who are parents and who were formerly incarcerated.

12 (d) One member who is a researcher and who has studied issues
13 related to the impact of incarceration on youth.

14 (e) One member who is from an organization in this state that
15 facilitates visitation between incarcerated parents and their children.

16 (f) One county attorney who is from a county with a population of
17 less than five hundred thousand persons or the county attorney's designee.

18 (g) One county attorney who is from a county with a population of
19 five hundred thousand persons or more or the county attorney's designee.

20 (h) One member of the Arizona criminal justice commission who
21 represents a county with a population of five hundred thousand persons or
22 more or the member's designee.

23 (i) One member of the Arizona criminal justice commission who
24 represents a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand
25 persons or the member's designee.

26 (j) One member who is a chief probation officer or the chief
27 probation officer's designee.

28 2. The director of the department of economic security or the
29 director's designee.

30 3. The director of the state department of corrections or the
31 director's designee.

32 4. The director of the department of juvenile corrections or the
33 director's designee.

34 5. The director of the governor's office of youth, faith and family
35 or the director's designee.

36 6. The director of the Arizona peace officer standards and training
37 board or the director's designee.

38 7. The director of the administrative office of the courts or the
39 director's designee.

40 8. The attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

41 9. The presiding judge of the juvenile court in Maricopa county or
42 the presiding judge's designee.

43 10. One member of the senate who is appointed by the president of
44 the senate.

45 11. One member of the house of representatives who is appointed by
46 the speaker of the house of representatives.

1 12. One member of the senate who is appointed by the minority
2 leader of the senate.

3 13. One member of the house of representatives who is appointed by
4 the minority leader of the house of representatives.

5 B. Members of the task force shall be appointed not later than six
6 months after the effective date of this section.

7 C. Task force members are not eligible to receive compensation or
8 reimbursement of expenses under title 38, chapter 4, article 2, Arizona
9 Revised Statutes.

10 D. At the first meeting of the task force, the members shall elect
11 a chairperson.

12 E. The task force shall meet at least quarterly or at the call of
13 the chairperson.

14 F. The task force shall:

15 1. Focus on providing every child who has an incarcerated parent in
16 this state with all of the following rights:

17 (a) To be kept safe and informed at the time of the parent's
18 arrest.

19 (b) To be heard when decisions are made about the child.

20 (c) To be considered when decisions are made about the child's
21 parent.

22 (d) To be well cared for in the parent's absence.

23 (e) To speak with, see and touch the parent.

24 (f) To be supported as the child faces the parent's incarceration.

25 (g) To not be judged, blamed or labeled because the child's parent
26 is incarcerated.

27 (h) To have a lifelong relationship with the parent.

28 2. Identify service gaps in behavioral health support and
29 coordinate with faith-based, educational and community organizations in
30 this state to ensure accessible, trauma-informed, preventive interventions
31 for the children of incarcerated parents.

32 3. Track key indicators, including all of the following:

33 (a) The number of children of incarcerated parents who are reached
34 by the task force.

35 (b) The number of faith-based community partnerships that are
36 established.

37 (c) Any reports on parental contact and reintegration support.

38 4. Partner with local congregations, faith leaders and volunteers
39 to raise awareness, facilitate peer support groups and deliver stress
40 management and self-awareness programs for the children of incarcerated
41 parents and their caregivers.

42 5. On or before June 30, 2028, submit a report regarding the task
43 force's findings and recommendations to the governor, the president of the
44 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and provide a copy
45 of this report to the secretary of state.

46 G. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2028.