

Senate Engrossed House Bill

~~foster youth permanency project team~~  
(now: foster youth permanency; pilot project)

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

**CHAPTER 256**  
**HOUSE BILL 2704**

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 8-469; 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, to read:

4 8-469. Foster youth permanency pilot project team; duties;  
5 confidentiality

6 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT  
7 PROJECT TEAM. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM SHALL:

8 1. DEVELOP A METHODOLOGY TO IDENTIFY CHILDREN WHO ARE BELIEVED TO  
9 BE AT RISK OF EXITING THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTODY WITHOUT A PERMANENCY  
10 PLACEMENT.

11 2. IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY FOR  
12 CHILDREN WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE  
13 CHILD TURNS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR TO BEGIN PARTICIPATING IN THE  
14 EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-521.02.

15 B. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM CONSISTS OF THE  
16 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

17 1. MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK.

18 2. MEMBERS WHO ARE ATTORNEYS AND WHO HAVE EXPERTISE IN REPRESENTING  
19 CHILDREN OR EXPERIENCE IN CHILD WELFARE LAW.

20 3. MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS GUARDIANS AD LITEM.

21 4. MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES.

22 5. MEMBERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE CHILD'S CASE AND WHO HAVE AN  
23 UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHILD'S PERMANENCY PLAN PREFERENCES.

24 6. MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN PERMANENCY  
25 PLANNING POLICY AND BEST PRACTICES.

26 C. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM SHALL DO ALL OF  
27 THE FOLLOWING:

28 1. THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE CHILD'S CASE FILE.

29 2. CONVENE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM MEETINGS THAT  
30 INCLUDE THE CHILD, THE CHILD'S CAREGIVERS, THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY AND  
31 MEMBERS OF THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM WHO ARE  
32 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION AND WHO AGREE TO  
33 PARTICIPATE IN THE CHILD'S CASE, AS APPLICABLE AND NECESSARY. AT THE  
34 INITIAL MEETING, THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM SHALL  
35 IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY FOR EACH CHILD SELECTED AND DETERMINE THE  
36 ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES AND TOOLS NEEDED FOR THE CHILD TO ACHIEVE  
37 PERMANENCY.

38 3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PERMANENCY PLAN FOR THE CHILD.

39 4. CONVENE ONGOING MEETINGS OF THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT  
40 PROJECT TEAM TO EVALUATE THE CHILD'S PROGRESS TOWARDS PERMANENCY AND TO  
41 AMEND THE CHILD'S PERMANENCY ACTION PLAN AS NECESSARY.

42 5. IDENTIFY SPECIFIC OPTIONS TO PLACE A CHILD WITH INDIVIDUALS OR  
43 FAMILIES WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO PROVIDE PERMANENCY TO A CHILD  
44 SELECTED BY THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM.

1 D. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM SHALL HAVE ACCESS  
2 TO ALL DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PERSONNEL THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PERFORM  
3 THE DUTIES OF THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM.

4 E. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM MAY ENTER INTO  
5 CONTRACTS WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

6 1. A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN  
7 EFFECTIVE THERAPIES AND ASSESSING PROPER USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS.

8 2. AN ATTORNEY WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS,  
9 EDUCATION, IMMIGRATION, DISABILITY, ADOPTION AND DEPARTMENT AND CHILD  
10 WELFARE POLICIES.

11 3. A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WHO CAN SUCCESSFULLY LOCATE RELATIVES OR  
12 KIN OF CHILDREN WHO WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS PLACEMENT OPTIONS.

13 F. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PILOT PROJECT TEAM SHALL TAKE  
14 REASONABLE STEPS TO PREVENT UNWARRANTED INVASIONS OF PRIVACY AND TO  
15 PROTECT THE PRIVACY AND DIGNITY OF CHILDREN WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF A  
16 PERMANENCY ACTION PLAN.

17 Sec. 2. Report

18 Not later than July 1, 2026, the department of child safety shall  
19 submit a report to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker  
20 of the house of representatives and the chairpersons of the senate and  
21 house of representatives health and human services committees, or their  
22 successor committees, on the outcomes of the foster youth permanency pilot  
23 project team established by section 8-469, Arizona Revised Statutes, as  
24 added by this act, with recommendations on how the department may improve  
25 and enhance the foster youth permanency pilot project team.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 21, 2024.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 21, 2024.