



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988



SB 1341 – Foster Children; Motor Vehicle Insurance 2017

- A.R.S. §20-1106 allows minors to buy life and health insurance. SB 1341 expands existing law to permit minors at least 16 years of age who have taken a driver safety course and who are in foster care to buy auto insurance.
- State law encourages:
 - Children who are sixteen years of age or older to obtain a driver's license, subject to the exercise of discretion by foster parents
 - Foster parents and other caregivers to use a reasonable and prudent parenting standard to promote normalcy for children in their care by encouraging participation in age or developmentally appropriate activities. This includes activities such as **learning to drive**.
- Under A.R.S. §8-529; **Children in foster care; rights**, children who are at least sixteen years of age have the right to receive help with obtaining a driver's license, except that the foster parent shall have discretion to determine if the child is responsible and mature enough to become a licensed driver.
- No mechanism exists for a young adult in foster care to get a driver's license or to cover the cost of obtaining necessary auto insurance. Currently, a foster parent or caregiver would have to assume ALL of the cost out of pocket to add a licensed youth in foster care to their personal auto policy.
- Findings from a recent survey of 376 young adults ages 15, 16 and 17 currently in Arizona foster care or aftercare services revealed:
 - **Only 5%** were enrolled or had completed a driver's education course.
 - **Only 5%** had obtained their driver's permit.
 - **Only 4%** had obtain a driver's license.
- According to data from the Arizona Department of Transportation and U.S. Census Bureau, 35% of ALL young adults ages 15, 16, and 17 in Arizona were issued a driver's permit or driver's license compared to only 9% of young adults in Arizona foster care who responded to the survey. The ability to obtain auto insurance could help more young adults in foster care pursue the goal of a driver's license.

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 1341.

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