



Voices For The Rare
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The Zebra Safety Act (2026 Revision)

An Act relating to the safety, communication, and housing portability of medically fragile and nonverbal citizens.

Section I: Purpose and Intent

To eliminate "**Administrative Violence**" and physical barriers for Arizonans with ultra-rare diseases and communication barriers. This Act mandates state-verified identification, digital accessibility, and the integration of medical necessity into housing portability, ensuring that state-funded systems are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Section II: Identification and First Responder Safety

1. **Voluntary MVD Designation:** The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) shall provide a voluntary "Communication Barrier/Medical Alert" designation on state-issued Driver's Licenses and IDs.
2. **Zebra Specialty License Plates:** ADOT shall issue a specialty license plate or standardized "Zebra" decal for vehicles registered to individuals with verified communication barriers.
3. **ALPR Database Integration:** Law enforcement agencies utilizing Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) must ensure that a "Zebra" flag triggers a "Medical/Communication Alert" on-screen for the officer **prior** to physical contact to ensure ADA Title II compliance and safe interaction protocols.

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Section III: The "Digital Ramp" Mandate (Effective Communication)

1. **Digital Parity Requirement:** Every state agency (DES, ADOT, AHCCCS) and state-contracted private vendor (e.g., Property Management firms, Healthcare networks) must provide a monitored email, SMS, or accessible web portal for all public-facing services.
2. **Prohibition of Voice-Only Gatekeeping:** It is a violation of this Act to require a physical appearance or a voice-over-phone transaction as the **sole** method for:
 - a. Requesting Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications.
 - b. Submitting housing, interviews, and benefit applications.
 - c. Paying mandatory administrative or application fees.

Section IV: Mandatory Designation of Lead Agency Accountability

1. **The "Anti-Hamster Wheel" Rule:** When a citizen with a "Zebra" designation is in a **Priority 1 Housing Transition** (as defined by AMPM 520) or a life-safety crisis, the State (DES/AHCCCS) must designate **ONE** Lead Agency (Copa Health, ABC, or a Managed Care Organization) as the sole accountable party.
2. **Referral Consolidation:** The Lead Agency is prohibited from referring to the citizen to third-party sub-contractors (e.g., HOM, Inc.) without providing a **Direct Liaison** to complete the transaction. "Referral-only" responses without follow-through are hereby defined as **Administrative Neglect**.
3. **The 72-Hour Resolution Clock:** Once a Zebra-flagged member submits a formal inquiry regarding a housing barrier, the Lead Agency has **72 business hours** to provide a status update that includes a specific "Next Step" and a direct contact name. Clerical corrections regarding email distribution lists shall not pause this clock.
4. **Contractual Penalties:** State contracts for DDD and Behavioral Health providers shall include "Liquidated Damages" for failure to resolve "Zebra" flagged transitions, ensuring the cost of administrative silence is higher than the cost of providing the accommodation.

Scan to view the full Legislative Roadmap.



Section V: "Bridge to Care" (BCHIP) & Federal Housing Compliance

1. **Mandated Regional Portability (Pima-Pinal-Maricopa):** The State of Arizona shall mandate immediate, reciprocal voucher and **Section 811 PRA** portability between Pima, Pinal, and Maricopa counties. A resident's housing eligibility and subsidy **MUST** follow their clinical medical necessity.
2. **The "Surgical Nexus" Rule:** Access to specialized surgical, oncology, and rare-disease teams (e.g., Banner University Medical Center) shall be defined as a "Priority 1" justification for immediate inter-county transfer.
3. **Inclusivity Standards:** Arizona shall adopt the federal HUD definition of disability, which includes **all** individuals with physical, mental, or emotional impairments. "Category-Specific Exclusion"—where individuals are denied 811 PRA access based on the *type* of their disability—is a violation of HUD's Final Rule on Section 811.
4. **Elimination of "County-Lock":** No housing authority or state-contracted provider shall utilize "residency requirements" to deny housing to a medically fragile individual who must relocate for life-saving care. To do so constitutes **Medical Gatekeeping** and a violation of the **Olmstead Decision**.

Section VI: Training and Enforcement

1. **Mandatory HUD Training:** Receipt of state/federal housing funds is contingent upon agency staff certifying completion of **HUD Secure Systems & 811 PRA training** annually.
2. **Technical Assistance Integration:** Agencies failing to meet Title II standards must utilize the **Pacific ADA Center** adapacific.org or **(1-800-949-4232)** for mandatory compliance remediation.
3. **Constructive Denial:** Failure to provide a digital alternative to a voice-only system, or the refusal to acknowledge a medical transition, shall be documented as a "Constructive Denial of Service" under the Arizona Civil Rights Act.
4. **Systems Change Audit:** The state shall maintain a public-facing log of ADA complaints involving third-party contractors at municipal hubs (e.g., PHX Sky Harbor) to ensure transparency in disability safety.

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