

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 980
Judiciary

(Delegate Zirkin, *et al.*)

Department of Juvenile Services - Operational Regions

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to establish at least five operational regions within the State. Each region must include at least one secure detention facility and a sufficient number of committed facilities to provide services to every child from the region in DJS custody. A child may be placed in a committed facility outside of the child's region if the child needs specialized services and transfer is in the best interest of the child.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential significant increase in DJS general fund expenditures for operating and capital costs. The actual effect depends on the methods utilized to implement the bill's requirements, based on the recommendations in Phase Two of the Facilities Master Plan.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Although the Secretary of Juvenile Services has the authority to designate operational regions, it is not required by State law.

DJS may establish and operate facilities necessary to diagnose, care for, train, educate, and properly rehabilitate children who need these services. DJS may also place children in group homes and institutions that are operated by private providers and reimburse the

providers for the services. DJS may not, however, place a child in a facility that is not operating in compliance with State licensing laws.

Background: DJS is currently divided into five regions for community supervision (**Exhibit 1**).

Exhibit 1
DJS Program and Service Areas

Region I	Baltimore City
Region II	Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard
Region III	Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington, Montgomery
Region IV	Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester
Region V	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's

Pursuant to Chapter 431 of 2004, DJS has contracted with Development Services Group (DSG) to complete a Facilities Master Plan. Phase Two of the study is scheduled to be completed by December 2005. The first phase of the study includes estimates of the State's need for bed space in each region ("Gap Analysis"). **Exhibit 2** lists the bed space deficits by area. The deficits total 451, which is over 25% of the total capacity of all state-owned facilities.

DJS advises that these gaps may be filled by a number of strategies, including: construction or acquisition of new facilities, conversion of facilities in areas of surplus capacity, or development of private capacity to serve DJS youth.

State Expenditures: The bill requires each of at least five regions in the State to "include a sufficient number of committed facilities that are necessary to diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate properly every child in the custody of DJS from that region."

DJS has not provided cost estimates for the new facilities, but advises that the operating and capital costs of implementing the bill are very substantial. DJS further advises that the costs cannot be realistically estimated until the final phase of the Facilities Master Plan is completed and specific recommendations are provided.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2005
mll/jr

Analysis by: Kineta A. Rotan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

Exhibit 2
DJS Bed Space Deficits by Service Area

<i>Area</i>	<i>Secure Detention</i>	<i>Youth Centers</i>	<i>Nonsecure Committed</i>	<i>Secure Committed</i>	<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Shelter Care</i>	<i>Community Detention</i>	<i>Group Home</i>	<i>Foster Care</i>	<i>Therapeutic Treatment</i>
I	44	45	20	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
II	0	39	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0
III	0	0	0	16	0	3	0	0	0	0
IV	0	20	18	0	0	1	2	4	0	0
V	0	35	40	15	26	0	16	0	2	18
Total Deficiency	44	139	78	76	68	4	18	4	2	18

Source: Department of Juvenile Services, *Gap Report*, December 2004
