

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 511
Judiciary

(Delegate Dumais, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Juvenile Services - Services and Programs for Females

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2011, on the manner in which the department will use existing resources to ensure that females receive services substantially equivalent to those offered to males in fiscal 2013 and subsequent years. The report must include statewide and regional information on the utilization of (1) prevention and diversion services; (2) alternatives to detention, including day and evening reporting and shelter care; (3) the continuum of services for those committed to DJS for probation or residential placement, including evidence-based programs; and (4) educational and vocational training services.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing State resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DJS must serve children in the juvenile services system with programming that:

- ensures the safety of the community and the children served;
- holds delinquent children accountable to victims and communities;

- assists children to develop competencies to become successful members of society;
- delivers services on a regional basis through at least four operational regions;
- ensures that each committed facility owned by DJS serves no more than 48 children at one time;
- ensures that each committed facility licensed by DJS serves no more than 48 children at one time, unless the Secretary of Juvenile Services finds good cause for a committed facility licensed by DJS to serve more than 48 children at one time; and
- uses detention and committed facilities that are operationally separate from each other and that do not share common program space, including dining halls and educational or recreational facilities.

Background: According to its *FY 2010 Annual Statistical Report*, DJS handled 11,056 intake cases involving females in fiscal 2010, compared to 29,722 cases involving males. **Exhibit 1** compares the disposition of DJS intake cases by gender. **Exhibit 2** compares the number of youth assigned to probation, shelter care, residential committed programs, and secure detention facilities by gender.

An evaluation of Gender Responsive Services conducted by DJS in 2007 yielded several recommendations, including (1) the creation of a Trauma Informed Care treatment model for female youth in State-operated residential care; (2) the creation of a gender responsive certification training program for all staff and vendors working with female youth in both residential and community settings; and (3) the establishment of gender responsive community based programming in every region.

Exhibit 1
Number and Percent of Total DJS Intake Cases by Gender
Fiscal 2010

<u>Manner of Handling Cases</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Formal petitions	14,103	47.4	3,201	29.0	17,304
90 days pre-court supervision	4,987	16.8	2,173	19.7	7,160
Resolved at intake	10,091	34.0	5,487	49.6	15,578
No jurisdiction	289	1.0	123	1.1	412
Decision not recorded	252	0.8	72	0.7	324
State Total	29,722	100.0	11,056	100.0	40,778

Source: Department of Juvenile Services, *FY 2010 Annual Statistical Report*

Exhibit 2
Distribution of Youth by Gender

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Probation	3,540	803	4,343
Shelter care	819	161	980
Residential committed programs	1,731	273	2,004
Secure detention facilities	4,400	650	5,050

Source: Department of Juvenile Services, *FY 2010 Annual Statistical Report*

In a Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update, dated July 9, 2010, DJS established a goal of developing a strategic plan for services for girls in fiscal 2011. This would be accomplished by collaborating with child-serving agencies and external stakeholders in a Girls' Services Task Force to develop a plan for services to adolescent females under the supervision of DJS that is gender specific and based on current research and best practices. The task force convened in May 2010. According to the *Maryland Manual*, its last meeting was in October 2010.

State Expenditures: DJS can produce the report required under the bill with existing resources. The preparation of the report may reveal the need to shift resources from existing programs to programs for females. However, the need for and extent of any such reallocation will not be known until a needs assessment is conducted during the preparation of the report required under the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 394 of 2010, a similar bill, was heard in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: SB 787 (Senator Raskin, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2011
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