

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 678 (Senator Pugh)
 Judicial Proceedings

Juvenile Services - Community-Based Diversion Pilot Program

This bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to develop a Community-Based Diversion Pilot Program. The stated purpose of the program is to develop community-based alternatives to commitment of juveniles in residential programs while maintaining community safety. The Secretary is authorized to adopt implementing regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$681,900 in FY 2014, which reflects the bill’s October 1, 2013 effective date and an additional three-month start-up delay, for DJS to establish a day-treatment center in Baltimore City. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	681,900	1,299,500	1,350,400	1,403,600	1,459,300
Net Effect	(\$681,900)	(\$1,299,500)	(\$1,350,400)	(\$1,403,600)	(\$1,459,300)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Secretary must consult with representatives from the Annie E. Casey Foundation when developing the program. To accomplish the purposes of the

pilot program, the Secretary must (1) establish a juvenile day-treatment center in Baltimore City capable of treating 25 moderate- to high-risk juvenile offenders; (2) require juveniles assigned to the treatment center to report daily to the treatment center; (3) establish community monitoring of juveniles assigned to the treatment center, including random visits to the juvenile’s home and school; (4) hire counselors to develop an individual treatment plan for each juvenile assigned to the treatment center, including individual and group cognitive behavior intervention; and (5) work with appropriate agencies to determine whether juvenile offenders assigned to the treatment center are eligible for Medicaid and whether the juvenile would benefit from additional treatment covered by Medicaid. When possible, the Secretary must hire counselors for the treatment center who live in the community served by the center.

The Secretary must collect data and report annually by October 1 to the General Assembly on the efficacy of the program.

Current Law: Once a child has been adjudicated delinquent, the juvenile court, at a disposition hearing, may place a child under supervision in the child’s own home or in the custody or under the guardianship of a relative or other fit person, on terms the court deems appropriate, including community detention. A child may also be committed to the custody or guardianship of DJS or other agency on terms that the court considers appropriate, including designation of the type of facility where the child is to be accommodated. The court may also order the child or the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian to participate in rehabilitative services that are in the best interest of the child and the family.

Background: Out-of-home placements for committed juveniles may include foster homes, group homes, independent living programs, residential treatment centers, and seven DJS-operated facilities. In fiscal 2012, there were 1,783 committed placements and an average daily population of 957 juveniles. Of all youth in committed residential placements, slightly less than 90% remain in-state.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$747,724 in fiscal 2014, which assumes a three-month start-up delay after the bill’s October 1, 2013 effective date. This estimate reflects the costs associated with hiring 13 staff (one case manager supervisor, four case manager specialists, five resident advisors, one resident advisor supervisor, one office secretary, and one transportation coordinator) for the juvenile day-treatment center.

Positions	13
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$491,977
Operating Expenses	<u>189,916</u>
Total FY 2014 State Expenditures	\$681,893

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Any potential offset from a reduction in placement costs for juveniles who will participate in the day-treatment center instead of being in a committed placement is not expected to materially impact the above fiscal estimate.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2013
ncs/kdm

Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

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