

# HOUSE BILL 994

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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center and**  
3 **Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in**  
4 **Prince George's County**

5 **PG 306-14**

6 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile  
7 Assessment Center and Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of  
8 Delinquency in Prince George's County; providing for the composition, chair,  
9 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from  
10 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
11 expenses; requiring the Task Force to identify, study, and report on certain  
12 issues, hold certain meetings, and make certain recommendations; requiring the  
13 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's  
14 County Delegation to the House of Delegates on or before a certain date;  
15 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task  
16 Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center and Constructive  
17 Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince George's  
18 County.

19 **Preamble**

20 WHEREAS, Juvenile assessment centers, comprising community operated  
21 facilities and programs, provide central intake and screening services for youth  
22 referred to the Department of Juvenile Services; and

23 WHEREAS, Juvenile assessment centers are used to the fullest extent possible  
24 to conduct predisposition assessments and youth evaluations, including needs  
25 assessments, substance abuse evaluations, physical and mental health evaluations,  
26 psychological evaluations, behavioral assessments, educational assessments, aptitude  
27 testing, and vocational testing; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Individuals serving juvenile assessment centers include  
2 representatives from substance abuse programs, mental health providers, law  
3 enforcement agencies, schools, health service providers, state attorneys, public  
4 defenders, truancy program personnel, gang liaison law personnel, and other agencies  
5 serving youth; and

6 WHEREAS, The key components of a juvenile assessment center include: (1) a  
7 single point of entry, including 24-hour per day centralized intake to improve quality  
8 and efficiency, (2) immediate comprehensive needs assessment, (3) integrated case  
9 management to ensure appropriate placement, and (4) comprehensive and integrated  
10 management information systems to coordinate and monitor services and treatment  
11 progression; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center  
15 and Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince  
16 George's County.

17 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

18 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland representing Prince  
19 George's County, appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to  
20 the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates representing Prince  
22 George's County, appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to  
23 the House of Delegates;

24 (3) the Prince George's County Chief of Police, or the Chief's designee;

25 (4) the Prince George's County Sheriff, or the Sheriff's designee;

26 (5) the juvenile court judge of the Prince George's County Circuit  
27 Court, Juvenile Division, appointed by the Circuit Administrative Judge of the  
28 Seventh Circuit;

29 (6) a member of the Prince George's County Council, appointed by the  
30 Chair of the Prince George's County Council;

31 (7) the Prince George's County Public Safety Director, or the Director's  
32 designee;

33 (8) two representatives from the office of the Prince George's County  
34 Executive, appointed by the Prince George's County Executive; and

1                   (9)    the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Social  
2 Services, or the Director's designee.

3           (c)    The Prince George's County Executive shall designate the chair of the  
4 Task Force.

5           (d)    The Prince George's County Executive shall provide staff for the Task  
6 Force.

7           (e)    A member of the Task Force:

8                   (1)    may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

9                   (2)    is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
10 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11          (f)    The Task Force shall:

12                   (1)    identify, study, and report on the current intake process for  
13 juveniles who come into contact with the Prince George's County juvenile justice  
14 system;

15                   (2)    review successful juvenile assessment center models from other  
16 counties and states and gather research relating to juvenile assessment centers;

17                   (3)    receive input or testimony from:

18                           (i)    the Department of Juvenile Services;

19                           (ii)   the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention;

20                           (iii)  Advocates for Children and Youth;

21                           (iv)   the Prince George's County C-PAC;

22                           (v)   the Prince George's County School Board and  
23 Superintendent;

24                           (vi)   the Prince George's County-NAACP;

25                           (vii)  The Sentencing Project; and

26                           (viii) Prince George's County municipal leaders;

27                   (4)    make recommendations relating to the benefits, risks, and costs  
28 associated with the creation of a juvenile assessment center and other alternatives to

1 managing youth at risk of delinquency in Prince George's County, including ways to  
2 address the following goals:

3 (i) providing a comprehensive assessment of the needs of  
4 juveniles;

5 (ii) improving case management and treatment;

6 (iii) making efficient use of law enforcement, juvenile justice,  
7 and treatment resources;

8 (iv) avoiding unnecessary detention of juveniles;

9 (v) enhancing information sharing across agencies; and

10 (vi) improving the monitoring of system performance;

11 (5) make recommendations on how a juvenile assessment center in  
12 Prince George's County could be funded;

13 (6) make recommendations on a feasible location and hours of  
14 operation for a juvenile assessment center in Prince George's County; and

15 (7) make recommendations on alternatives to managing youth at risk  
16 of delinquency in Prince George's County.

17 (g) On or before October 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
18 recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of Delegates.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
21 end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
22 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.