

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1569  
Judiciary

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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**Prince George's County - Juvenile Offender in Need of Supervision Program -  
Study  
PG 304-17**

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This bill requires the Prince George's County Police Department to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a Juvenile Offender in Need of Supervision (JOINS) program in each county precinct. The bill specifies the requirements for the study and establishes a reporting requirement.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2018.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County can handle bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The study must consider (1) similar programs in other counties; (2) best practices recommended by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS); (3) criteria for a program, including eligibility, individualized sanctions, and completion requirements; and (4) the police department's ability to track program data, as specified.

By December 15, 2017, the Prince George's County Police Department must report to the Prince George's County delegation on (1) the feasibility of establishing a JOINS program

in each county precinct; (2) recommended program criteria; (3) the fiscal impact of a program; (4) potential program deterrents; and (5) its recommendation for establishing a program.

**Current Law/Background:** Statutory provisions set forth procedures regarding juveniles who are alleged to have committed a delinquent act and require guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation. Statutory provisions also address Children in Need of Supervision (CINS), who are children requiring guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation and (1) are required by law to attend school and are habitually truant; (2) are habitually disobedient, ungovernable, and beyond the control of the person with custody; (3) deport themselves so as to injure or endanger themselves or others; or (4) have committed an offense applicable only to children.

Although statutory provisions address CINS, they do not address a “juvenile offender in need of supervision,” as specified. However, in 1996, the Baltimore County Police Department established the JOINS program in each county police precinct. The program was created to divert threshold offenders (first-time, nonviolent offenders or juveniles deemed to be at the beginning of a pattern of delinquency) from the juvenile justice system. Goals and objectives of the program include (1) reducing the rate of recidivism for juvenile offenders; (2) reducing minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system; (3) successful intervention in the cases of juvenile threshold offenders; (4) supporting families and youth with counseling and appropriate referrals to community resources; and (5) promotion of making amends and building self-esteem through community restitution and accountability.

In fiscal 2016, DJS received 1,743 complaints regarding juveniles in Prince George’s County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore and Prince George’s counties; Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2017  
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