

SENATE BILL 657

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CF 8lr2949

By: **Senators Kelley, Benson, Cassilly, Conway, Currie, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hough, Kagan, Kasemeyer, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Muse, Nathan–Pulliam, Norman, Pinsky, Ramirez, Ready, Robinson, Rosapepe, Serafini, Smith, Waugh, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School Board for the Juvenile**
3 **Services Education System**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School
5 Board for the Juvenile Services Education System; providing for the membership,
6 chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to consider certain
7 topics and make certain findings; requiring the Workgroup to convene on a certain
8 date; requiring the Workgroup to submit a certain report to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly in a certain format and on or before a certain date; providing for
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Establishing
11 an Independent School Board for the Juvenile Services Education System.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Maryland's Juvenile Services Education System (JSES) operates within
14 the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which operates no schools and lacks
15 an independent board; and

16 WHEREAS, The children served by JSES have experienced a disproportionately
17 high rate of trauma and are in need of a higher level of special education services for which
18 there are inadequate budgetary and staffing resources; and

19 WHEREAS, JSES struggles with stretching its resources over a 12–month calendar,
20 rather than a traditional 9–month calendar, which exacerbates difficulties with filling staff
21 vacancies in a timely manner and maintaining an adequate lineup of substitute teachers;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, There are very limited options available to students in the JSES system

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 for earning credits, taking online courses, or enrolling in a post-secondary program; and

2 WHEREAS, Instruction available to JSES students is not based on the academic
3 interests or achievements of the students, but on housing assignments of the students; and

4 WHEREAS, JSES lacks systematic protocols for ensuring that, as a student
5 graduates from the program, a transcript of their completed work is available to a public
6 school; and

7 WHEREAS, The pay, working conditions, and attrition rates of JSES teachers,
8 principals, and support staff are in need of significant improvement; now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School Board for the
12 Juvenile Services Education System.

13 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

14 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate as follows:

16 (i) one member of the Budget and Taxation Committee;

17 (ii) one member of the Education, Health, and Environmental
18 Affairs Committee; and

19 (iii) one member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

20 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House as follows:

22 (i) one member of the Appropriations Committee;

23 (ii) one member of the Ways and Means Committee; and

24 (iii) one member of the House Judiciary Committee;

25 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
26 designee;

27 (4) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

28 (5) the Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools, or the
29 Superintendent's designee;

1 (6) the Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, or the
2 Superintendent's designee; and

3 (7) the following members, each of whom shall have experience with JSES
4 or juvenile education:

5 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
6 Education, appointed by the President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

7 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Community
8 Colleges, appointed by the President of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;

9 (iii) one representative of Disability Rights Maryland, appointed by
10 the Executive Director of Disability Rights Maryland;

11 (iv) one representative of the Public Justice Center, appointed by the
12 Executive Director of the Public Justice Center; and

13 (v) one representative of the Office of the Public Defender, appointed
14 by the Public Defender.

15 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
16 designate cochaIRS of the Workgroup from among the members appointed by the President
17 and the Speaker.

18 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

19 (e) The Workgroup shall:

20 (1) determine whether it would be beneficial for the State to create an
21 independent school board for the Juvenile Services Education System with:

22 (i) a reformed mission;

23 (ii) an adequate population-based budget;

24 (iii) a 9-month calendar for staff assignments and salary payments;

25 (iv) a reasonable set of curriculum and course offerings; and

26 (v) instructional and record-keeping modalities reflective of best
27 practices in the State's county school systems;

28 (2) identify ways to reform juvenile education services to remove
29 disparities between course offerings, staffing, and budgetary support available to students
30 in the Juvenile Services Education System and to students served by public schools in the
31 State; and

1 (3) make recommendations on whether the Governor should establish an
2 independent school board for the Juvenile Services Education System that includes:

3 (i) representatives from each of the Department of Juvenile
4 Services' six operational regions; and

5 (ii) any at-large positions within the membership.

6 (f) The Workgroup shall hold its first meeting on or before September 1, 2018.

7 (g) On or before December 20, 2019, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
9 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020,
12 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
13 of no further force and effect.