

SENATE BILL 1134

E3

8lr3681
CF HB 1524

By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2018

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council; providing for
4 the composition, chair, and staffing of the Council; prohibiting a member of the
5 Council from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of
6 certain expenses; specifying the duties of the Council; authorizing the Council to
7 request certain technical assistance; requiring the Council to report its findings and
8 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
9 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Juvenile
10 Justice Coordinating Council.

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

13 (a) There is a Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in the Governor's Office of
14 Crime Control and Prevention.

15 (b) The Council consists of the following members:

16 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
21 Secretary's designee;

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

23 (5) the Attorney General of Maryland, or the Attorney General's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee;

2 (7) a representative of the Maryland Judiciary, appointed by the Chief
3 Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

4 (8) the following members, appointed by the Executive Director of the
5 Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention:

6 (i) a representative of local law enforcement agencies;

7 (ii) a representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;

8 (iii) any other member with expertise relevant to the work of the
9 Council; and

10 (iv) an advocate for juvenile justice reform.

11 (c) The Executive Director shall be the chair of the Council.

12 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide staff for
13 the Council.

14 (e) A member of the Council:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
17 Travel Regulations.

18 (f) The Council shall:

19 (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group that includes organizations
20 with experience in:

21 (i) juvenile justice policy reform;

22 (ii) advocating for groups with disproportionate contact with the
23 juvenile justice and criminal justice systems;

24 (iii) advocating for victims of crime; and

25 (iv) community conferencing and mediation for restorative justice;

26 (2) working with the advisory stakeholder group, conduct roundtable
27 discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State;

1 (3) review information related to:

2 (i) the results of complaints against juveniles, including:

3 1. the recidivism rate of juveniles whose complaints are
4 diverted from the juvenile justice system;

5 2. the number of times the juvenile court dismisses juvenile
6 cases contrary to the recommendations of the Department of Juvenile Services;

7 3. the reasons for the dismissal of juvenile complaints by the
8 State's Attorney; and

9 4. data on juveniles against whom multiple complaints have
10 been filed, but whose cases are processed without court involvement;

11 (ii) the number of juvenile cases handled by the Office of the Public
12 Defender by jurisdiction;

13 (iii) the number of staff the Office of the Public Defender has
14 dedicated to the representation of juvenile clients by jurisdiction, including attorneys,
15 support staff, social workers, and therapists;

16 (iv) continued contact by the Office of the Public Defender with a
17 juvenile client after the juvenile's case is completed;

18 (v) effective out-of-school programs for juveniles found to be
19 delinquent or at risk of delinquency;

20 (vi) the number of Assistant State's Attorneys who handle juvenile
21 cases;

22 (vii) the qualifications and number of staff employed by the
23 Department of Juvenile Services who directly interact with juveniles;

24 (viii) wrap-around services for juveniles and their families; and

25 (ix) best practices and evidence-based practices in juvenile justice,
26 including practices recommended by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
27 Prevention and in other states;

28 (4) study any other relevant information available from the Department of
29 Juvenile Services; and

30 (5) make recommendations regarding improvements to the juvenile justice
31 system in the State.

1 (g) In conducting the study and making recommendations as required under
2 subsection (f) of this section, the Council may request technical assistance from the Abell
3 Foundation and the Council of State Governments.

4 (h) On or before December 31, 2019, the Council shall report its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020,
9 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
10 of no further force and effect.