

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 905 (Senator Sydnor)
Judicial Proceedings

Juvenile Services - Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and the Department of Human Services to convene a workgroup with the Maryland Public Policy Institute and relevant stakeholders, as specified, to increase accountability for prevention and intervention services delivered to children by DJS through evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices. By September 1, 2022, DJS must report to the General Assembly on recommended strategies, timelines, and budgetary needs for increasing the use of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in prevention and intervention services delivered to children by DJS. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2021, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be met with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup must (1) complete a baseline assessment of the use of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and children's mental health and (2) prepare and publish an inventory of descriptive definitions for such practices.

In identifying and assessing such practices, the workgroup must:

- consider any available systemic, evidence-based assessment of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a program;
- attempt to identify assessments that use valid and reliable evidence;
- specifically identify evidence-based programs effective for underserved and ethnically diverse communities; and
- identify ways to make assessments available to community-based organizations to help validate successful programming already in existence with an emphasis on programs that represent underserved and racially and ethnically diverse communities.

With the goal of increasing the number of practices that meet the standards for evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices, DJS must (1) use State, federal, and private funds to prioritize assessments of identified practices and (2) coordinate training across program areas for such practices and use monitoring and quality control procedures to measure reliability.

Additional Comments: This bill generally implements one of the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council. The council, chaired by the Secretary of Juvenile Services, was created pursuant to Chapters 252 and 253 of 2019. The council issued its final [report](#) in January 2021.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1121 (Delegate Crutchfield) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

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