

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

DATE: 2/13/2020

BILL NUMBER: HB0673 - Juvenile Services - Facilities - Garrett Children's Center

DJS POSTITION: Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) supports HB0673.

HB0673 proposes to re-name the Savage Mountain Youth Center (SMYC) to the Garrett Children's Center (GCC).

The current law (Human Services Article § 9-226) does not specifically identify SMYC, rather SMYC falls under the broadly defined category of "youth centers." SMYC serves youth with higher needs in a secure environment that is more comparable with the treatment, services and programing that youth receive at the facilities presently identified under this statute.

Furthermore, the name change prevents any unintended disparaging misrepresentations of the youth that receive treatment services at the facility. The department proposes to change the facility name to "Garrett Children's Center," as the facility is located in Garrett County.

For these reasons, DJS urges a favorable report for HB0673.