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Lt. GovernorLarry Hogan
GovernorSam Abed
Secretary

Date: 3/10/2021
Bill # / Title: SB 842 - Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact With the Justice System
DJS Position: Letter of Information

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is providing information for SB 842. This bill would create a workgroup to study the needs of young women in contact with the juvenile justice system, with a focus on Prince George's County. The workgroup would include, among others, the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, legislators, prosecutors, school officials, and parents from Prince George's County. The bill creates a December 1, 2021 deadline for the workgroup to report to the Governor and General Assembly on its findings and recommendations.

DJS's State Advisory Board is already charged with reviewing programming for young women

As detailed in the fiscal note, Section 9-238.1 of the Human Services Article requires DJS to provide females with programming to meet their specific needs, including diversion programs, community detention services, and reentry services and programs. The General Assembly amended Section 9-215 of the Human Service Article in 2017 to specifically require the DJS State Advisory Board to consult with and advise the Secretary of Juvenile Services on the treatment and programming needs of females in the juvenile justice system.

Services for young women involved with DJS were outlined in a January 2019 report

In response to Senate Bill 674/House Bill 721 of the 2017 session, DJS submitted a report to the General Assembly in January 2019 detailing data trends, services available for DJS-involved girls, and the way those services are delivered.¹

DJS publishes annual data and descriptions of programming, evaluations, and recidivism

Each fiscal year, DJS publishes the Data Resource Guide, which includes:

- Recidivism data with a breakdown by gender²
- Female-specific data as to complaints, case decisions, demographics, placements and detention³
- Detailed descriptions of female-specific programming⁴

The Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) recently completed a yearlong review of the juvenile justice system

The JJRC issued a report in January 2021 with 20 specific reform recommendations.⁵ These recommendations are included in SB853, which is now pending consideration by the Senate. HB853 includes changes to improve the delivery of services and data collection, as well as language to extend the Council to continue researching and evaluating improvements in the juvenile justice system.

¹ <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/publications/DJS-Services-DJS-Involved-Girls-Jan-2019.pdf>

² <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Recidivism.pdf>

³ <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/females.pdf>

⁴ <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Committed-Programs.pdf>

⁵ <http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPbITabMtg/CmsnJuvRefCncl/JJRC-Final-Report.pdf>