

Date: February 21, 2024
Bill Number/Title: SB652 - Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings (Department of Juvenile Services Transparency Act of 2024)
Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee
DJS Position: Support with Amendments

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports SB 652 with amendments. The bill requires DJS to report to the General Assembly by January 1st each year on information about the number of shootings of and by juveniles under the supervision of DJS and on the timeline and actions of DJS after an incident has taken place.

DJS's State Advisory Board (SAB) is already required to review and examine fatalities involving youth under the supervision of the DJS. The SAB is charged with providing recommendations to DJS on policies and practices to prevent youth fatalities.

The SAB fatality review does not include youth under supervision who are involved in non-fatal shootings. DJS respectfully requests an amendment to include these cases in the review process. The recommendation is to amend SB 744, because this bill creates a more expansive commission by merging two existing entities: DJS's SAB and the Evidence Based Services Commission. The new commission, titled The Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices, keeps the requirement of fatality reviews and DJS recommends adding the review of non-fatal shootings to the commission's purview as outlined below.

Suggested Language:

SB 744 page 21 and 22

(11) EXAMINE AND REVIEW FATALITIES AND NON FATAL SHOOTINGS INVOLVING CHILDREN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT FATALITIES, INCLUDING:

(I) A DEATH CAUSED BY A CHILD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES, IF THE CHILD IS CONVICTED OR ADJUDICATED FOR THE DEATH; [AND]

(II) THE DEATH OF A CHILD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES; [.]

(III) A CHILD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES WHO WAS NON-FATALLY SHOT; AND

(IV) A CHILD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES WHO WAS CONVICTED OR ADJUDICATED FOR SHOOTING ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL.