

SB 652_ Department of Juvenile Services – Report on

Uploaded by: Destiny Bell

Position: FAV

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

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Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes to SB 652

Title: Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings 3 (Department of Juvenile Services
Transparency Act of 2024)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing: February 22, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your favorable vote on Senate Bill 652. This will be a significant piece of legislation that mandates the Department of Juvenile Services to report to the Maryland General Assembly specific details about shootings involving juveniles under its supervision. This legislation focuses on enhancing transparency and accountability in the Department's handling of such incidents.

The purpose of SB652 is by mandating the reporting of such information to the Maryland General Assembly, the legislation promotes an open and accountable system that can be analyzed and tracked. This increased transparency not only helps legislators and policymakers understand the extent of issues but also allows them to assess the effectiveness of current juvenile supervision practices. This legislation addresses the fears of the people surrounding the lack of transparency in law enforcement activities. The reporting requirement towards building a more accountable and community-responsive juvenile justice system.

Significance and Impact: The significance of SB652 is that it creates greater trust and accountability between law enforcement and the citizens of Maryland. By mandating the Department of Juvenile Services to report information on shootings involving juveniles under its supervision, the legislation aims to create transparency in law enforcement actions. This increased openness gives communities knowledge about incidents and also mitigates concerns stemming from a lack of reported data. This law will help address problems and strengthen the public's confidence in the justice system.

This bill prioritizes the citizens of Maryland's citizens and their knowledge of their communities, which is why I urge a favorable report for **Senate Bill 652**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory V. McCray
45th District

SB0652-JPR-SUPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0652

February 22, 2024

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 652 – Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings
Department of Juvenile Services Transparency Act of 2024

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 652.

SB 652 would foster accountability and transparency by requiring the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to provide an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly detailing the number of juveniles under supervision who were involved in fatal and non-fatal shootings – including both victims and shooters – along with the age and county of residence of each individual identified. This legislation would also require DJS to describe the process and actions that were conducted by the department after each shooting incident reported.

Juvenile non-fatal shooting victims have quadrupled statewide over the past decade; murder and attempted murder arrests for juveniles in Baltimore City have consistently increased over the past five years. Particularly in Baltimore City, homicides and shootings of youth have continued to rise.¹

Given the alarming rise in gun violence by and against young people, it is sound policy for DJS to provide legislators annually with information on shooting incidents that have occurred involving juveniles under the Department's purview.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 652.

¹Maryland Department of Juvenile Services Research Brief, "Putting Youth Crime in Maryland in Context," September 2023. https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/MD-DJS-Juvenile-Crime-Data-Brief_20230912.pdf

SB 652_Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Karalyn Aanenson

Position: FWA

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.