

SENATE BILL 636

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4lr1365

By: **Senators West, Watson, and Carozza**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2024
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Law – Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of Juvenile**
3 **Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of
5 Juvenile Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders; and
6 generally relating to the Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of
7 Juvenile Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of Juvenile
11 Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders.

12 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

13 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the Chair of the
14 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;

15 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Chair of the
16 House Judiciary Committee;

17 (3) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (4) one representative appointed by the Office of the Public Defender;

19 (5) one representative appointed by the Maryland State's Attorneys'
20 Association;

21 (6) the State Police Chief, or the Police Chief's designee; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee.

2 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

3 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff
4 for the Commission.

5 (e) A member of the Commission:

6 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

7 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
8 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

9 (f) The Commission shall:

10 (1) review and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies and
11 practices of the Department of Juvenile Services relating to:

12 (i) the supervision and monitoring of juvenile offenders;

13 (ii) treatment programs;

14 (iii) intervention and prevention services;

15 (iv) rehabilitative services;

16 (v) community supervision; and

17 (vi) mental health services provided to juvenile offenders;

18 (2) consider available evidence-based assessments of Department of
19 Juvenile Services programs;

20 (3) develop data relating to the number of juvenile offenders and the length
21 and frequency of juvenile participation;

22 (4) investigate the effectiveness of Department of Juvenile Services
23 programs and services aimed at juvenile offenders;

24 (5) assess the total cost associated with Department of Juvenile Services
25 programs and services within the last 5 fiscal years;

26 (6) make recommendations regarding improvements to the Department of
27 Juvenile Services residential programs;

28 (7) assess and make recommendations regarding the ability of the

1 Department of Juvenile Services to provide social services to juvenile offenders; and

2 (8) make recommendations regarding budgetary appropriations to sustain
3 and improve Department of Juvenile Services programs and services.

4 (g) On or before December 1, 2025, the Commission shall report its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31,
9 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated
10 and of no further force and effect.