

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 411 (Senators Green and Kasemever)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Juvenile Justice - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening and Assessment**

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This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to refer each child who is the subject of a complaint for a mental health and substance abuse screening within five working days of intake. If, as a result of that screening, it is determined that the child is mentally handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, or a substance abuser, a comprehensive mental health or substance abuse assessment shall be conducted within five working days. The intake officer shall take any such assessment into account in determining whether judicial action is in the best interest of the child.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by approximately \$3.9 million in FY 2000 and \$5.2 million annually thereafter for mental health and substance abuse screenings and assessments. Expenditures could increase by significant additional amounts for treatment.

(in millions)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$3.9	\$5.2	\$5.2	\$5.2	\$5.2
Net Effect	(\$3.9)	(\$5.2)	(\$5.2)	(\$5.2)	(\$5.2)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** DJJ estimates that it will have 54,741 intakes in fiscal 1999, and that approximately 30% of these youths will be Medicaid recipients enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). It is expected that mental health and substance abuse screenings and assessments for Medicaid MCO enrollees would be performed by the enrollees' providers at no additional charge to the State. The cost for mental health and substance abuse screenings for the remaining 70% of intakes, at \$50 each, would be \$1,915,935. Based on information supplied by DJJ, it is estimated that 26% of intakes, or 14,233 youths, would require mental health or substance abuse services. The cost for full scale assessments for the youths who are not Medicaid enrollees, at \$326 each, would be \$3,247,971.

These costs total \$5,163,906 annually (\$3,872,930 in fiscal 2000 due to October 1 effective date). Actual costs could be less to the extent that youths fail to attend appointments.

The bill does not specifically address treatment. The precise cost to the State of treatment for the 26% of intakes for whom treatment would be indicated cannot be determined at this time, but is expected to be significant.

**Small Business Effect:** The mental health and substance abuse screenings and evaluations required by the bill would be performed by qualified private health care providers at the request of DJJ. Small businesses would benefit from the bill to the extent that any of these health care providers would be small businesses.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 1999  
nncsjr Revised - Updated Information - March 12, 1999

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