

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 692 (Delegate Montague, *et al.*)

Judiciary

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

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This bill provides that, within 25 days after receipt of a complaint, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) intake officer shall discuss with the child who is the subject of the complaint and the child's parent or guardian information regarding a referral for a mental health and substance abuse screening of the child. The screening shall be conducted by a person who:

- has been selected by the child's parent or guardian;
- has been approved by the child's health insurance carrier; and
- is a qualified health, mental health, or substance abuse professional or trained staff member.

Within 15 days of the date of the discussion with the child and the child's parent or guardian, the intake officer shall document whether the child's parent or guardian made an appointment for a mental health and substance abuse screening of the child. If, as a result of the screening, it is determined that the child is a mentally handicapped or seriously emotionally disturbed child, or is a substance abuser, a comprehensive mental health or substance abuse assessment of the child shall be conducted within five working days after the screening.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirements could be handled by DJJ using existing resources. To the extent that the bill results in more children becoming Medicaid enrolled, however, Medicaid expenditures would increase.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**Small Business Effect:** Small health care businesses would benefit to the extent that they are retained to conduct more mental health and substance abuse screenings, assessments, and/or treatment as a result of the bill.

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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

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Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 1999

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Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510