

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 533

(Delegate Zirkin, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Department of Juvenile Justice - Mentoring Program - "Maryland Rising"

This bill establishes the "Maryland Rising" mentoring program for children who are being held in juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) must develop a statewide network of groups that will recruit volunteer mentors. Within two weeks of a child's placement in detention, DJJ must attempt to provide a mentor for the child. Mentors must have frequent contact with the children to whom they are assigned and may provide counseling, tutoring, life skills training, and other support services to the children. DJJ must contact the mentors regularly and encourage the mentors to be involved in the children's recovery and treatment programs. The "Maryland Rising" program must be funded by the existing budget of DJJ.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$343,600 in FY 2004. Future year expenditure estimates reflect annualization, salary increases, and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	343,600	414,200	440,300	468,700	499,700
Net Effect	(\$343,600)	(\$414,200)	(\$440,300)	(\$468,700)	(\$499,700)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: “Baltimore Rising” is a youth violence reduction initiative modeled after successful programs in Boston and Philadelphia and implemented by the Mayor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families. The Baltimore Rising program targets youths age 13 to 17 with specific risk factors, including prior criminal history or violent behavior, truancy, or drug-addicted parents. The program contains both a mentoring initiative and a monitoring initiative. The mentoring component links youths with faith-based mentors, and the monitoring component uses juvenile justice probation officers and youthworkers to help participating youths reconnect with society. Indicators that will be used to evaluate the success of the program are reductions in youth violence, handgun possession, and arrest rates. The annual budget for the Baltimore Rising initiative is approximately \$1.2 million.

In 1996, a federal law required the U.S. Attorney General to provide Congress with a review of the effectiveness of crime and delinquency prevention strategies that have been funded with federal dollars. The report, *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn’t, What’s Promising*, was prepared by the University of Maryland Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and submitted to the National Institute of Justice in July 1998. The report reviewed evaluations of community-based mentoring programs and found some encouraging results. One study of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program found significant reductions in drug use and minor violent behaviors among at-risk 10- to 14- year old youths. Truancy also declined among the mentored youths. Unfortunately, other evaluations have not produced the same level of positive results. However, as a relatively inexpensive strategy (the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program estimated a cost of \$1,000 per “match”), mentoring was placed by University of Maryland researchers in the “What’s Promising” category.

In its fiscal 2004 Managing for Results estimates, DJJ projects an average daily population of 361 in secure detention. The most recent actual data on detention population is from fiscal 2002. In that year, the average daily population in secure detention was 413.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill requires that the “Maryland Rising” program be funded by the existing budget of DJJ. To accomplish this, DJJ personnel would have to be diverted from other activities to implement the bill, which would involve developing a network of cooperating agencies to recruit mentors, matching children with mentors, contacting mentors regularly, and encouraging mentors to be involved in children’s recoveries. Depending on how the program is implemented by DJJ, this could involve large percentages of several workers’ time or smaller percentages of many workers’ time. At

the very least, it would require the diversion of one full-time person to develop and maintain a network of volunteers for the program.

If DJJ receives additional funding to implement the legislation, general fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$343,600 in fiscal 2004, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2003 effective date. The estimate reflects the cost of hiring seven additional juvenile counselors, one at each juvenile detention facility in the State, who would match detainees with mentors. A program administrator and an office secretary, both working out of DJJ headquarters, would also be required. Start-up costs and ongoing operating expenses are also included in the estimate.

	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$294,583	\$404,963
One-time Start-up Costs	42,110	0
Ongoing Operating Expenses	<u>6,878</u>	<u>9,262</u>
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$343,571	\$414,225

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Comments: DJJ projects that the expenditures needed to implement the "Maryland Rising" program would range from approximately \$925,000 in fiscal 2004 to \$1.4 million in fiscal 2008. The DJJ estimates assume multiple counselors (two to five) at every detention facility to match detainees and mentors. Although the DJJ estimates are closely aligned to the annual budget of the existing Baltimore Rising program (\$1.2 million), the Department of Legislative Services advises that a less ambitious program could meet the requirements of the bill with the lower expenditure totals estimated in this fiscal note.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510