

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 537 (Delegate Zirkin, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Juvenile Justice - Group Homes - Certification of Administrator

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This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to jointly establish a program to certify administrators of residential group homes for children by January 1, 2005. By January 1, 2007, each residential group home for children that is licensed by DJJ, DHR, or DHMH must employ a certified group home administrator.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The costs to develop and implement the required certification program are minimal and could be absorbed within the budgets of DJJ, DHR, and DHMH. The bill does not specify any certification fees.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Residential group homes are licensed by DJJ, DHR, and DHMH. A group home may not be required to obtain licenses from more than one State agency.

There is no State certification specifically for group home administrators.

**Background:** A September 2000 Executive Order established the Task Force to Study the Licensing and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes for Children. The task force

met from February to September 2001 and submitted a final report in October 2001. The report recommended that group home administrators be certified. Other task force recommendations included:

- strengthening the regulations surrounding the licensing and monitoring of community-based homes;
- providing rate setting incentives to providers that offer programs in underserved geographic areas;
- improving training for case workers who work with children placed in community-based homes; and
- providing additional funding for licensing and monitoring operations.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2003  
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