

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1146
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Jones, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Juvenile Causes - Children in Out-of-Home Placement - Plan for a System of Outcomes Evaluation

This bill requires the Office for Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF), in cooperation with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), to plan for and determine the cost of an objective and standardized system of outcomes evaluation for out-of-home placements used by State agencies. The agencies may consult with the University of Maryland, Baltimore to develop and implement the system. By September 1, 2004, OCYF, DHR, and DJS must submit a joint report on the system for outcomes evaluation for out-of-home placement of children. By July 31, 2005, the agencies must have planned and determined the cost of the system.

The bill is effective June 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$82,500 in FY 2005 only to hire additional OCYF personnel to develop the plan. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	82,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$82,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill provides that the system for outcomes evaluation must be planned to allow the State to monitor the care, supervision, education, and treatment provided in State-operated and State-supported programs. The planned system must also allow the State to establish an evaluation system for the performance of out-of-home placements and assess the capacity of out-of-home placements to meet the needs of children. The system must use standardized measures to evaluate the treatment services that children receive while they are in the placements.

The plan for the outcomes system must ensure that DHR and DJS facilitate the participation of residential facilities and that contracts with private out-of-home placement providers include provisions requiring the facilities to collect and report specific information on each child in a facility. In addition, the plan must ensure that the data collected and used in the system maintain confidentiality standards for the children placed in facilities.

Current Law: OCYF, DHR, and DJS are not required to plan for or maintain a database of outcome measures for out-of-home placements.

Background: For a number of years, the Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families discussed the development of an interagency management information system to be used by frontline personnel. The system was envisioned as a means to share client data for case planning and case collaboration; identify resources for clients; and produce accurate interagency client data for planning, analysis, budgeting, and evaluation. A number of barriers, however, have impeded progress on the system.

Further evidence of the need for a statewide system to track children in out-of-home placements was uncovered by 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 noted that there is no centralized database of all licensed community-based homes and that there is no link between funding and the quality of services provided by programs. The task force recommended that a database of licensed providers be developed and maintained.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$82,537 in fiscal 2005, which accounts for the bill's June 1, 2004 effective date and a 30-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of a contractual professional at OCYF, the lead agency, who would develop the plan and ascertain the costs of developing the required outcomes system. The cost of a half-time contractual administrative assistant to

provide support for the effort is also included in the estimate, as are fringe benefits and operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$77,142
Operating Expenses	<u>5,395</u>
Total FY 2005 State Expenditures	\$82,537

Assuming the plan is complete by July 1, 2005, no costs would be incurred after fiscal 2005.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An almost identical bill was introduced last year as HB 528. The bill was withdrawn.

Cross File: SB 710 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*) is designated as a cross file but is not identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Human Resources, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 2004
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