

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 468

(Senator Green, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

**Department of Juvenile Services - Youth Services Bureaus - Predelinquent
 Diversion Services**

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to: (1) promote predelinquent programs, including greater utilization of Youth Services Bureaus (YSBs); (2) collaborate with local governments to encourage the use of predelinquent services provided by YSBs; and (3) provide technical assistance to local governments and YSBs to identify alternative funding sources for predelinquent programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$45,900 in FY 2006 for DJS to hire a resource coordinator. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	45,900	56,300	59,600	63,200	67,000
Net Effect	(\$45,900)	(\$56,300)	(\$59,600)	(\$63,200)	(\$67,000)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: DJS' research and development unit, in developing new or improved means to prevent juvenile offenses, must include greater utilization of YSBs.

The bill allows YSBs to provide individual, family, or group counseling, instead of the current requirement that all three types of counseling must be provided. YSBs also may offer aftercare services, along with the other types of services they already offer such as tutoring and community education. Whether these services are offered is subject to the availability of funds, as well as the existing provision that these services are offered according with a community's needs.

The State Comprehensive Juvenile Justice 3-Year Plan, beginning with the plan submitted to the General Assembly February 1, 2006, must contain the following additional information: an inventory of nonresidential treatment programs; the needs of clients including predelinquent diversion services programs; and programs dedicated to diverting children from the juvenile justice system.

The bill also expands the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services by one person (YSB representative) to 19 members and requires the board to consult with the Secretary of Juvenile Services on the programs designed to divert children from the juvenile justice system.

Current Law: YSB is a community-based entity that is operated: (1) to provide community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and youth development; (2) to improve the conditions that breed delinquency, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and family disruption; and (3) to function as an advocate of youth needs. DJS' rules and regulations must require each State-aided YSB provide, at convenient hours: (1) individual, family, and group counseling; (2) referral and information services; (3) crisis intervention; (4) alcohol and drug abuse assessment and referral services; (5) informal counseling; and (6) according to a community's needs: tutoring, alternative leisure activities, employment assistance, community education, and other specialized services. The services must be provided for free or at a rate established by each YSB board of directors, in consultation with DJS that is based on the client's family income.

DJS' research and development unit must perform certain functions, including: (1) compile accurate statistics and reliable information on all aspects of the juvenile programs in Maryland; (2) monitor current juvenile justice developments; (3) assess existing programs and activities; and (4) help develop new or improved means of preventing juvenile offenses and control and treat juvenile offenders.

The State Comprehensive Juvenile Justice 3-Year Plan, developed by the Secretary, must: (1) include an inventory of all in-day treatment programs and residential care programs and an accounting of the residence of all clients; (2) set out the service needs for clients; (3) establish service priorities; (4) set residential and outreach services

standards; (5) include a program dedicated to reducing clients' recidivism rates; and (6) include any other appropriate matters. The plan must be revised each subsequent calendar year and submitted annually to the General Assembly by February 1.

The State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services consists of 18 members. The board must: (1) consult with and advise the Secretary on each aspect of the juvenile justice program in the State and DJS educational programs and services; (2) recommend policies and programs to improve juvenile justice in Maryland; (3) participate in interpreting DJS objectives for the public; and (4) participate in planning the development and use of available resources to meet DJS' needs.

Background: A 2004 Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus (MAYSB) report requests a total of \$5.4 million annually in State funding for YSBs, an allocation of \$200,000 for each existing and new YSB. The report also recommends expanding the number of YSBs in the State by six over a three-year period. YSBs counseled 1,305 troubled youth in 2001, the most recent year for which data was available.

The Youth Strategies Initiative, formerly called the Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant, was started in January 2001 with the goal that all children of the State can maximize their potential and become law-abiding residents. It seeks to establish effective and coordinated local service delivery systems that meet the needs of youth in each jurisdiction.

Only local management boards (LMBs) or their designees are eligible to apply for these grants in fiscal 2006 but can use vendors to provide services, including YSBs. Grants will be awarded for a two-year period with funding in the second year contingent on the availability of funds and satisfactory performance during the fiscal year.

State Fiscal Effect: The fiscal 2006 budget includes \$2,048,438 in federal funds for the 21 YSBs statewide. YSBs also would be eligible to compete for Youth Strategies Initiative grants under the Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The initiative's fiscal 2006 budget is \$3,889,660.

Department of Juvenile Services

General fund expenditures for DJS could increase by an estimated \$45,892 in fiscal 2006, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2005 effective date. This estimate reflects hiring one resource coordinator to promote and provide technical assistance to local governments, YSBs, and other predelinquent programs. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$39,631
Operating Expenses	<u>6,261</u>
Total FY 2006 State Expenditures	\$45,892

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full salary with 4.6% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 405 (Delegate Menes, *et al.*) – Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services; *Big Returns for Small Investments, Youth Services Bureaus' Plan: Divert Youth from Juvenile Justice System and Create Readiness for Education*, Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus, October 22, 2004; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2005
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 1, 2005
Revised - Updated Budget Information - May 31, 2005

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