

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1521
Judiciary

(Delegate Zirkin)

Judicial Proceedings

Department of Juvenile Services - Victor Cullen Center

This emergency bill exempts the Victor Cullen Center from a requirement that specific facilities must be operated by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and prohibits the Victor Cullen Center from serving more than 48 children at a time.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies DJS plans for the Victor Cullen Center site.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DJS may establish and operate the facilities that are necessary to diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate children who need DJS services. DJS is authorized to contract for the operation of facilities and is generally not required to operate facilities. However, pursuant to Chapter 431 of 2004, the following facilities must be operated by DJS by July 1, 2007:

- Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center;
- J. DeWeese Carter Center;
- Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School;
- Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center;
- Cheltenham Youth Facility;

- Victor Cullen Center;
- Thomas J.S. Waxter Children’s Center;
- Lower Eastern Shore Children’s Center;
- Western Maryland Children’s Center; and
- DJS youth centers.

Background: The Victor Cullen Center is located in Sabillasville, Frederick County. Though the center is currently closed, DJS plans to issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) in March 2006 to operate (through a private vendor) a 48-bed secure committed program at Victor Cullen Center or another location. However, given the language of Chapter 431 of 2004, the use of a private vendor would have to cease by July 1, 2007.

DJS is moving towards regionalizing out-of-home programming. Pursuant to Chapter 431 of 2004, DJS contracted with Development Services Group (DSG) to complete a Facilities Master Plan.

In Phase I of the DJS Facilities Master Plan (*Gap Analysis Report*), the State was divided into five operational areas (**Exhibit 1**).

Exhibit 1
DJS Program and Service Areas

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Area I: | Baltimore City |
| Area II: | Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard |
| Area III: | Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, Washington |
| Area IV: | Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester |
| Area V: | Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s |
-

In the *Gap Analysis Report*, DSG reported that Area III had a shortage of secure committed slots. DSG advised that the DJS plan to renovate the facilities at the Victor Cullen Center in a phased expansion of residential care services would make Area III the best positioned of the five areas to begin the regionalization of services process.

In Phase 2 of the Facilities Master Plan (*Implementation Report*), DJS proposes dividing the State into the four operational regions listed below (**Exhibit 2**). DJS is already

operating on a four region basis. Region 3 (Western Maryland Region) contains the counties previously in Area III and adds Carroll and Howard counties.

Exhibit 2
Implementation Report Proposed DJS Operational Regions

- Region 1: Greater Baltimore (Baltimore City and Baltimore County)
- Region 2: Southern Maryland (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Region 3: Western Maryland (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington)
- Region 4: Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester)
-

The fiscal 2007 budget includes \$3 million for the development of a secure-committed program at Victor Cullen or another location. This program would also serve youth who would have been placed at the Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School, which officially closed on November 30, 2005. The specifics of the program are unknown at this point.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2006
ncs/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - April 4, 2006

Analysis by: Amy A. Devadas

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