

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 882

(Senator Lawlah, *et al.*)

Finance

Ways and Means

At-Risk Youth Prevention and Diversion Programs

This bill establishes an Advisory Council to the Children’s Cabinet.

The bill states it is the General Assembly’s intent that the Governor include \$10 million in the fiscal 2008 budget to be distributed by the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) for at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs, and sufficient funds in each fiscal year thereafter to maintain programs implemented under this bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$5.7 million in FY 2008 to comply with the intent language of the bill. Future year estimates assume that level funding will be required to maintain programs implemented under this bill and current funding levels for delinquency prevention programs will remain constant.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Net Effect	\$0	(\$5.7)	(\$5.7)	(\$5.7)	(\$5.7)

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

Local Effect: Legislative Services assumes that any additional local management board (LMB) administrative costs that could not be absorbed by a board’s existing staff would be covered by a portion of the grant funds awarded.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful to the extent small businesses receive additional funds to provide at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The council's purpose is to make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet on: (1) methods for meeting the policy and program goals of the State for integrated children and family programs; (2) coordinating State programs with programs operated by local governments, local management boards (LMBs), and private groups; (3) building capacity to serve youths in their communities and at home; (4) reducing reliance on institutions as the primary mode of intervention for at-risk youth offenders; (5) promoting positive outcomes for youths; (6) funding practices that prevent juvenile crimes and delinquency; and (7) reducing disproportionate minority confinement.

At-risk youth prevention and diversion programs may be nonresidential and community-based, school-based, neighborhood-based, or faith-based. Programs must be coordinated, monitored, and supported by LMBs. LMBs must apply to GOC for program funding. Before submitting an application, the LMB must demonstrate that it has convened a local planning group. The group must assess the adequacy, availability, and accessibility of current community-based services that prevent and divert criminal behavior and entry and re-entry in the juvenile justice system and increase personal responsibility and self-sufficiency. The group also must identify unserved areas with significant numbers of at-risk or delinquent youth and recommend programs that can address the unmet needs of youth and their families.

LMBs also must: (1) develop a request for funds based on the local planning group's recommendations; (2) award funds to local agencies or organizations to provide services; (3) monitor and evaluate at-risk youth prevention and diversion program performance; (4) provide technical assistance to programs; (5) promote cost-effectiveness strategies; (6) measure outcomes; and (7) provide reports to GOC.

GOC must report annually by December 31 to the General Assembly on the implementation and effectiveness of at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs.

Current Law: Each local jurisdiction has an LMB. A requirement for each local jurisdiction to establish and maintain an LMB was previously codified under Article 49D, which terminated July 1, 2005. Currently, LMBs are not codified in statute and this bill does not by itself codify LMBs. Within the Governor's Office for Children, there is a State Coordinating Council that must, among other duties, oversee local coordinating councils and plan and coordinate with the local councils concerning providing adequate services to children in need of residential placement and enhanced services to children with intensive needs. The council is not codified in law.

Background: Pursuant to Chapter 431 of 2004, the Department of Juvenile Services (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*), DSG recommended examination and development of intervention programs and programs focused on the differential penetration of minority youth into the juvenile justice system as potential avenues for reduction of recidivism in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

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. The initiative is now called the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Initiative. It currently receives approximately \$3.0 million in funding. The total for delinquency prevention funding in the fiscal 2007 budget is approximately \$4.3 million.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by \$5.7 million in fiscal 2008 to comply with the intent language of the bill. This estimate assumes that the \$4.3 million in the fiscal 2007 budget for delinquency prevention will also be available in the fiscal 2008 budget, and will be applied towards the \$10 million in program funding discussed in the intent language of the bill.

Future year estimates assume: (1) that \$10 million annually in funding will be required to maintain support for programs implemented under this bill; and (2) that fiscal 2007 program funding levels will remain constant.

GOC advises that since it already staffs the Children's Cabinet, no additional GOC staff would be needed as a result of this bill.

GOC also advises that approximately \$2.2 million in funding would be needed for LMBs to administer and evaluate \$10 million in at-risk youth delinquency prevention and diversion programs. The Department of Legislative Services disagrees with this assessment. Any additional costs that could not be absorbed by an LMB's existing staff could be covered by a portion of the grant funds awarded.

Additional Comments: HB 301 of 2006, assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee, recodifies LMBs and the State Coordinating Council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 773 of 2005, a similar bill, passed the Senate, and was rereferred to the House Judiciary Committee. No further action was taken. HB 1303 of 2005, also a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: Although not designated as a cross file, HB 870 is nearly identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Governor's Office for Children, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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