

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 206

(Chairman, Ways and Means Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Education)

Ways and Means

Budget and Taxation

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**Education - Juvenile Services Alternative Education Program**

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This departmental bill repeals the juvenile services alternative education program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The juvenile services alternative education program has not received State funding since FY 2004, and the proposed FY 2007 State budget includes no funding for the program.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland State Department of Education has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Board of Education must establish a juvenile services alternative education program in a county designated by the State Superintendent of Schools. The program is for public school students who are suspended, expelled, or identified as candidates for suspension or expulsion. Students may also be ordered to attend the program as a condition of probation by the local juvenile court. A local board

of education sending a student to the program must pay the program the basic current expenses per pupil.

With the advice of a six-member Juvenile Services Alternative Education Program Advisory Board, the State Board of Education organizes the program and selects a private agency to administer the program.

**Background:** The Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Pilot Program was established by Chapter 685 of 2001, and the fiscal 2002 State budget included \$500,000 in start-up costs for the Prince George's County program. Two years later, Chapter 433 eliminated "pilot" from the program's title and required local school systems sending students to the program to pay tuition for the students beginning in fiscal 2006. However, State funding for the program was eliminated after fiscal 2004, and the proposed fiscal 2007 State budget does not include funding for the program.

The program that started in Prince George's County is still operating as an alternative high school, but it is run by the county with county funds and has never been operated by a private agency as required for a juvenile services alternative education program. Whether the existing school meets the other statutory requirements for the program, such as accepting student referrals from juvenile court and the establishment of an advisory board for the school, could not be confirmed.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Juvenile Services, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2006  
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