

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

Senate Bill 175

(Senators Zirkin and Muse)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Judiciary

Juveniles - Mentoring Program - "Maryland Rising"

This bill establishes the "Maryland Rising" mentoring program for children who have spent at least 30 days in a committed placement. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is required to develop a statewide network of groups, including State agencies, that will attempt to recruit a volunteer mentor for each child in the program. Mentors must have frequent contact with the children to whom they are assigned and may provide counseling, tutoring, life skills training, and other support services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$337,100 in FY 2008. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, salary increases, and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	337,100	409,100	430,200	452,500	476,100
Net Effect	(\$337,100)	(\$409,100)	(\$430,200)	(\$452,500)	(\$476,100)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 307 of 2003 established the Task Force to Study the Mentoring and Monitoring of Children in the Custody of or Under the Supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The task force found that mentoring programs effect positive outcomes for youth, including improvements in academic performance, classroom behavior, and peer relationships. The task force's final report states that it is feasible for DJS to implement a statewide mentoring program provided that sufficient funding and administrative support are made available to the program.

Background: "Baltimore Rising" is a youth violence reduction initiative administered by the Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families. It targets youths age 12 to 17 who have specific risk factors, including prior criminal history or violent behavior, truancy, or drug-addicted parents. The program contains both a mentoring initiative and a monitoring initiative. The mentoring component links youths with faith-based mentors, and the monitoring component uses juvenile justice probation officers and youth workers to help participants reconnect with society.

According to data compiled in 2005 by the Governor's Office for Children and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Baltimore Rising served 40 youth in its middle school mentoring program and 113 youth in its workplace mentoring program. A reported 85% of participants were promoted to the next grade and 75% improved their school attendance. The reported fiscal 2005 budget for the program was \$100,000.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill requires DJS to establish a program to attempt to provide a volunteer mentor for each child who spends at least 30 days in a committed placement. DJS advises that in fiscal 2006, 2,628 Maryland youth were released after stays of 30 or more days in a committed placement.

General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$337,093 in fiscal 2008, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2007, effective date. The estimate reflects hiring one statewide coordinator to develop a network of agencies from which to recruit mentors and five regional coordinators to match mentors with DJS youth.

	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$293,932	\$399,983
One-time Start-up Costs	36,366	0
Ongoing Operating Expenses	<u>6,795</u>	<u>9,151</u>
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$337,093	\$409,134
Positions	6	6

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Comments: Based on the recommendations of the task force, DJS estimates annual program costs at \$1.5 million to serve 500 students. In addition to the positions listed above, these estimates include funding for 25 part-time school coordinators, training, evaluation, and volunteer stipends. The Department of Legislative Services advises that a less ambitious program could meet the requirements of the bill with the lower expenditure totals estimated in this analysis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Task Force to Study the Mentoring and Monitoring of Children in the Custody of or Under the Supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Legislative Services

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