

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1428

(Chair, Judiciary Committee)

(By Request – Departmental – Juvenile Services)

Judiciary

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**Department of Juvenile Services - Victor Cullen Center**

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This emergency departmental bill provides that the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is not required to operate the Victor Cullen Center.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** DJS 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:** DJS may establish and operate facilities necessary to diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate children who need juvenile services. DJS is also authorized to contract for the operation of facilities.

Chapter 431 of 2004 requires DJS to operate the following facilities 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, located in Sabillasville in Frederick County, was closed in 2002. In August 2006, DJS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for operation of a 48-bed secure residential treatment program for males ages 14 to 19 to replace the program previously offered at the Cullen Center. Vendors responding to the RFP retained the option to locate services at the Cullen Center or an available private secure facility. The department received proposals in response to the RFP, but is prohibited from awarding a contract to a private vendor after July 1, 2007 due to the restrictions in law.

Chapter 431 of 2004 also required DJS to complete a Facilities Master Plan. Phase I and Phase II of the plan have proposed dividing the State into operational regions for providing DJS services. The plan has noted a shortage of secure committed slots and suggests that expansion of services at the Victor Cullen Center could be part of a pilot regionalization program in the Western Maryland region.

The Governor's fiscal 2008 proposed budget includes \$6.8 million for a hardware secure committed facility and/or to cover the cost of housing and treating youth committed to DJS and placed in private per diem programs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** An identical bill was introduced as HB 1521 in 2006. An amended version of the bill passed the House. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee did not take action on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2007  
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Analysis by: Suzanne O. Potts

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