

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 690

(Senator Kelley, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Programs for Children in Out-of-Home Placement - System for Outcomes
Evaluation**

This bill requires the Governor's Office for Children to measure the effectiveness of "treatment foster care homes" based on the existing "systems for outcomes evaluation" process currently used for residential child care programs. Beginning July 2011, this requirement will expand to include residential programs operated by or under contract with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and foster care homes approved by a local department of social services.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Governor's Office for Children and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Potential minimal increase in expenditures for DJS to report the data required under the bill's provisions. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill also exempts – a shelter care facility or residential respite program licensed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR); or a detention center or shelter care facility operated by or under contract with DJS – from certain provisions relating to the systems outcomes evaluation process. However, these facilities are not

exempt from requirements that a direct care staff has to be at least 21 years of age and have completed an approved training course.

Current Law: Chapter 536 of 2004 required the Governor's Office for Children in cooperation with DHR and DJS to plan for and determine the cost of an objective and standardized system of outcomes evaluation for out-of-home placements used by State agencies.

Chapter 133 of 2007 required DHR, DJS and the Governor's Office for Children to develop, coordinate, and implement a system for outcomes evaluation by July 1, 2008 to measure the effectiveness of residential child care programs. The Governor's Office for Children manages the ongoing work of the group and developed a data collection system known as the Children Services Outcome Measurement System.

A system for outcomes evaluation is an objective and standardized method of measuring the effectiveness of residential child care programs. The system for outcomes evaluation must be used to:

- monitor the care, supervision, education, and treatment provided by State-operated and State-supported residential child care programs so that successful services can be expanded and services that do not produce positive results can be identified;
- establish an evaluation system for program performance, including measures of safety, quality, and effectiveness; and
- complete an assessment of the State's residential child care program capacity that identifies residential child care programs in each community to serve the needs of a family that resides in the community.

The system for outcomes evaluation must use standardized measures of function to evaluate the child's:

- protection from harm while in out-of-home placement;
- stability of living environment;
- family situation and efforts to treat and counsel the family unit;
- educational and vocational development;
- job skills and employment readiness;
- legal and appropriate use of drugs and alcohol;
- progress in learning positive, nonaggressive behavioral habits; and
- delinquency status.

The system for outcomes evaluation must ensure that a cooperating department:

- facilitate the participation of residential child care programs operated by the cooperating department or private agencies with which the cooperating department has a contract for the placement of children in out-of-home care; and
- include in the cooperating department's contract with a private residential child care program provisions requiring the program to collect and report specified information to the cooperating department.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 713 (Delegate Jones, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Legislative Services

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