

HOUSE BILL 671

E3
HB 994/14 – JUD

51r0429

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center and Constructive**
3 **Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince George's**
4 **County**

5 **PG 306-15**

6 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment
7 Center and Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in
8 Prince George's County; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
9 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
10 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
11 identify, study, and report on certain issues, hold certain meetings, and make certain
12 recommendations; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
13 recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of
14 Delegates on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
15 generally relating to the Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center
16 and Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince
17 George's County.

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Juvenile assessment centers, comprising community-operated facilities
20 and programs, provide central intake and screening services for youth referred to the
21 Department of Juvenile Services; and

22 WHEREAS, Juvenile assessment centers are used to the fullest extent possible to
23 conduct predisposition assessments and youth evaluations, including needs assessments,
24 substance abuse evaluations, physical and mental health evaluations, psychological
25 evaluations, behavioral assessments, educational assessments, aptitude testing, and
26 vocational testing; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Individuals serving juvenile assessment centers include representatives
2 from substance abuse programs, mental health providers, law enforcement agencies,
3 schools, health service providers, State's Attorneys, public defenders, truancy program
4 personnel, gang liaison law personnel, and other agencies serving youth; and

5 WHEREAS, The key components of a juvenile assessment center include: (1) a single
6 point of entry, including 24-hour per day centralized intake to improve quality and
7 efficiency; (2) immediate comprehensive needs assessment; (3) integrated case
8 management to ensure appropriate placement; and (4) comprehensive and integrated
9 management information systems to coordinate and monitor services and treatment
10 progression; now, therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That:

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center and
14 Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince George's
15 County.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland representing Prince George's
18 County, appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates representing Prince George's
20 County, appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of
21 Delegates;

22 (3) the Prince George's County Chief of Police, or the Chief's designee;

23 (4) the Prince George's County Sheriff, or the Sheriff's designee;

24 (5) the juvenile court judge of the Prince George's County Circuit Court,
25 Juvenile Division, appointed by the Circuit Administrative Judge of the Seventh Circuit;

26 (6) a member of the Prince George's County Council, appointed by the
27 Chair of the Prince George's County Council;

28 (7) the Prince George's County Public Safety Director, or the Director's
29 designee;

30 (8) two representatives from the office of the Prince George's County
31 Executive, appointed by the Prince George's County Executive; and

32 (9) the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Social
33 Services, or the Director's designee.

1 (c) The Prince George's County Executive shall designate the chair of the Task
2 Force.

3 (d) The Prince George's County Executive shall provide staff for the Task Force.

4 (e) A member of the Task Force:

5 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

6 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
7 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

8 (f) The Task Force shall:

9 (1) identify, study, and report on the current intake process for juveniles
10 who come into contact with the Prince George's County juvenile justice system;

11 (2) review successful juvenile assessment center models from other
12 counties and states and gather research relating to juvenile assessment centers;

13 (3) receive input or testimony from:

14 (i) the Department of Juvenile Services;

15 (ii) the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention;

16 (iii) Advocates for Children and Youth;

17 (iv) the Prince George's County C-PAC;

18 (v) the Prince George's County School Board and Superintendent;

19 (vi) the Prince George's County-NAACP;

20 (vii) The Sentencing Project; and

21 (viii) Prince George's County municipal leaders;

22 (4) make recommendations relating to the benefits, risks, and costs
23 associated with the creation of a juvenile assessment center and other alternatives to
24 managing youth at risk of delinquency in Prince George's County, including ways to
25 address the following goals:

26 (i) providing a comprehensive assessment of the needs of juveniles;

27 (ii) improving case management and treatment;

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1 (iii) making efficient use of law enforcement, juvenile justice, and
2 treatment resources;

3 (iv) avoiding unnecessary detention of juveniles;

4 (v) enhancing information sharing across agencies; and

5 (vi) improving the monitoring of system performance;

6 (5) make recommendations on how a juvenile assessment center in Prince
7 George's County could be funded;

8 (6) make recommendations on a feasible location and hours of operation for
9 a juvenile assessment center in Prince George's County; and

10 (7) make recommendations on alternatives to managing youth at risk of
11 delinquency in Prince George's County.

12 (g) On or before October 1, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation to the House of Delegates.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
15 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
16 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.