

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 643
Appropriations

(Delegate Zucker, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Department of Human Resources - State Child Welfare System - Report

This bill requires the Department of Human Resources (DHR), by December 1 of each year, to report specified information regarding children and foster youth in the State child welfare system to the General Assembly. DHR must also publish each report on its website within 30 days of submission of the report to the General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DHR can handle the bill's requirements using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The following information must be reported annually regarding children and foster youth: (1) the number of child abuse and neglect reports, alternative responses, investigative responses, and findings for completed investigations; (2) the number of children and foster youth receiving in-home services; (3) the number of new out-of-home placements by placement type; (4) the number of exits from the child welfare system by exit type; (5) the number of exists to reunification and reentries within 12 months after exit; (6) the number of exits to reunification and reentries within 24 months after exit; (7) the stability of out-of-home placements, including the number of placement changes; (8) the stability of school placements; (9) the number who graduate from high school; (10) the number who qualify for a high school diploma by examination; and (11) the number who receive tuition waivers.

In reporting the information, DHR must maintain the confidentiality of children and foster youth and ensure that no personally identifiable information is disclosed. DHR must disaggregate the information by county, age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Current Law/Background: A foster youth is an individual who is an adult in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State or is an adult younger than age 25 and was in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State on the individual's eighteenth birthday.

DHR, through its Social Services Administration, has the primary responsibility for child welfare services throughout the State, which are provided primarily by the local departments of social services. These services support the healthy development of families, assist families and children in need, and protect abused and neglected children. Programs include foster care, family preservations, adoption, child protective services, and family reunification.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 567 (Senator Gladden) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2015
min/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2015

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