

# HOUSE BILL 1223

F1  
HB 1244/18 – JUD & W&M

9lr1895  
CF SB 221

---

By: **Delegates Moon, Acevero, Charkoudian, Gilchrist, J. Lewis, Stewart, and Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary and Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School Board for the Juvenile**  
3 **Services Education System**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School  
5 Board for the Juvenile Services Education System; providing for the membership,  
6 cochairs, and staffing of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to consider certain  
7 topics and make certain findings; requiring the Workgroup to convene on a certain  
8 date; requiring the Workgroup to submit a certain report to the Governor and the  
9 General Assembly in a certain format and on or before a certain date; providing for  
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Establishing  
11 an Independent School Board for the Juvenile Services Education System.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Maryland's Juvenile Services Education System (JSES), which is  
14 housed within the Maryland State Department of Education, operates no schools and lacks  
15 an independent board; and

16 WHEREAS, The children served by JSES have experienced a disproportionately  
17 high rate of trauma and are in need of a higher level of special education services for which  
18 there are inadequate budgetary and staffing resources; and

19 WHEREAS, JSES struggles with stretching its resources over a 12-month calendar,  
20 rather than a traditional 9-month calendar, which exacerbates difficulties with filling staff  
21 vacancies in a timely manner and maintaining an adequate lineup of substitute teachers;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, There are very limited options available to students in JSES for earning  
24 credits, taking online courses, or enrolling in a postsecondary program; and

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Instruction available to JSES students is not based on the academic  
2 interests or achievements of the students, but on housing assignments of the students; and

3 WHEREAS, JSES lacks systematic protocols for ensuring that, as a student  
4 graduates from the program, a transcript of the student's completed work is available to a  
5 public school; and

6 WHEREAS, The pay, working conditions, and attrition rates of JSES teachers,  
7 principals, and support staff are in need of significant improvement; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School Board for the  
11 Juvenile Services Education System.

12 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

13 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
14 of the Senate as follows:

15 (i) one member of the Budget and Taxation Committee;

16 (ii) one member of the Education, Health, and Environmental  
17 Affairs Committee; and

18 (iii) one member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

19 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
20 the House as follows:

21 (i) one member of the Appropriations Committee;

22 (ii) one member of the Ways and Means Committee; and

23 (iii) one member of the House Judiciary Committee;

24 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
25 designee;

26 (4) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

27 (5) two county superintendents of schools, appointed by the Public School  
28 Superintendents Association of Maryland; and

29 (6) the following members, each of whom shall have experience with the  
30 Juvenile Services Education System or juvenile education:

1 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of  
2 Education, appointed by the President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

3 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Community  
4 Colleges, appointed by the President of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;

5 (iii) one representative of Disability Rights Maryland, appointed by  
6 the Executive Director of Disability Rights Maryland;

7 (iv) one representative of the Public Justice Center, appointed by the  
8 Executive Director of the Public Justice Center; and

9 (v) one representative of the Office of the Public Defender, appointed  
10 by the Public Defender.

11 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly  
12 designate cochairs of the Workgroup from among the members appointed by the President  
13 and the Speaker.

14 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

15 (e) The Workgroup shall:

16 (1) determine whether it would be beneficial for the State to create an  
17 independent school board for the Juvenile Services Education System with:

18 (i) a reformed mission;

19 (ii) an adequate population-based budget;

20 (iii) a 9-month calendar for staff assignments and salary payments;

21 (iv) a reasonable set of curriculum and course offerings; and

22 (v) instructional and record-keeping modalities reflective of best  
23 practices in the State's county school systems;

24 (2) identify ways to reform juvenile education services to remove  
25 disparities between course offerings, staffing, and budgetary support available to students  
26 in the Juvenile Services Education System and to students served by public schools in the  
27 State; and

28 (3) make recommendations on whether the Governor should establish an  
29 independent school board for the Juvenile Services Education System that includes:

30 (i) representatives from each of the Department of Juvenile

1 Services' six operational regions; and

2 (ii) any at-large positions within the membership.

3 (f) The Workgroup shall hold its first meeting on or before September 1, 2019.

4 (g) On or before December 20, 2020, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its  
5 findings and recommendations to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
6 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,  
9 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
10 of no further force and effect.