

SENATE BILL 905

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CF HB 1121

By: **Senator Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Reassigned: Judicial Proceedings, February 9, 2021

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence–Based, Research–Based,**
3 **and Culturally Competent Practices**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of
5 Human Services to convene a certain workgroup to increase accountability for
6 certain services delivered to children by the Department of Juvenile Services
7 through certain practices; requiring the workgroup to complete a certain assessment
8 and prepare and publish a certain inventory; requiring the workgroup to consider
9 and identify certain factors in assessing certain practices; requiring the Department
10 of Juvenile Services to use certain funds and to coordinate certain training; requiring
11 the Department of Juvenile Services to report to the General Assembly on or before
12 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
13 prevention and intervention services for children.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That:

16 (a) The Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Services
17 shall convene a workgroup with the Maryland Public Policy Institute and relevant
18 stakeholders in areas of child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and juvenile mental health
19 services to increase accountability for prevention and intervention services delivered to
20 children by the Department of Juvenile Services through evidence–based, research–based,
21 and culturally competent practices.

22 (b) The workgroup shall:

23 (1) complete a baseline assessment of the use of evidence–based,
24 research–based, and culturally competent practices in child welfare, juvenile
25 rehabilitation, and children’s mental health; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) prepare and publish an inventory of descriptive definitions for
2 evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in the areas of child
3 welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and children's mental health services.

4 (c) In identifying and assessing evidence-based, research-based, and culturally
5 competent practices, the workgroup shall:

6 (1) consider any available systemic, evidence-based assessment of the
7 efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a program;

8 (2) attempt to identify assessments that use valid and reliable evidence;

9 (3) specifically identify evidence-based programs effective for underserved
10 and ethnically diverse communities; and

11 (4) identify ways to make assessments available to community-based
12 organizations to help validate successful programming already in existence with an
13 emphasis on programs that represent underserved and racially and ethnically diverse
14 communities.

15 (d) With the goal of increasing the number of practices that meet the standards
16 for evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices, the Department
17 of Juvenile Services shall:

18 (1) use State, federal, and private funds to prioritize assessments of
19 identified practices; and

20 (2) coordinate training across program areas for evidence-based,
21 research-based, and culturally competent practices and use monitoring and quality control
22 procedures to measure reliability.

23 (e) On or before September 1, 2022, the Department of Juvenile Services shall
24 report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government
25 Article, on recommended strategies, timelines, and budgetary needs for increasing the use
26 of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in prevention and
27 intervention services delivered to children by the Department of Juvenile Services.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 9 months and, at the
30 end of June 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
31 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.