

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 1442
Judiciary

(Delegate Edelson)

Judicial Proceedings

Juveniles - Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs - Report

This bill requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland's annual report on Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs (TRPPs) to include (1) the number of TRPPs established in the State; (2) the number of participants in each TRPP; (3) information on the outcomes of the participants in each TRPP; and (4) recommendations to improve the function of current TRPPs. **The bill terminates December 31, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Judiciary can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under § 7-301 of the Education Article, subject to limited exceptions, each child who resides in the State and is age 5 or older and younger than age 18 must attend a public school regularly during the entire school year. A child who is required by law to attend school and is habitually truant can be designated a child in need of supervision, which makes the child subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under Title 3, Subtitle 8A of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. However, current law (Title 3, Subtitle 8C of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article) also sets forth specific procedures for addressing truancy in jurisdictions in which a TRPP has been established. In a county in which a TRPP has been established, an authorized school official may file

with the juvenile court a petition alleging that a child who is required to attend school failed to do so without lawful excuse, as specified.

Circuit Administrative Judges of the First, Second, Third, Sixth, and Seventh circuits may establish TRPPs in specified counties within their judicial circuits. Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Prince George's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties are currently authorized to have TRPPs.

Dispositions under a Truancy Program

When making a disposition on a petition that has been filed as part of a TRPP, the court may order the child to (1) attend school; (2) perform community service; (3) attend counseling, including family counseling; (4) attend substance abuse evaluation and treatment; (5) attend mental health evaluation and treatment; or (6) keep a curfew with the hours set by the court. The court must retain jurisdiction until every condition of the court's order is satisfied.

Annual Reporting Requirements

By November 1 of each year, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland must report to the General Assembly on each established TRPP.

State Expenditures: The Judiciary, as part of its case management information system, regularly collects data on participants of TRPPs, which includes (1) client identification and demographics; (2) program enrollment and tracking; (3) engagement and performance metrics; (4) services provided; and (5) behavioral management and responses. The Judiciary advises that it can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources assuming that (1) it is not required to report on outcomes external to the Judiciary and (2) existing data collection is sufficient for compliance with the bill's reporting requirements.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2025
km/aad Third Reader - March 13, 2025
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