

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 814

(Delegate Taylor)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee on or before October 1, 2025, and each October 1 thereafter, on (1) efforts by DJS to promote predelinquent programs, including youth service bureaus (YSB); (2) efforts by DJS to collaborate with and provide technical assistance to local governments regarding the establishment, use, and funding of YSBs; (3) an assessment of the programs and activities conducted by YSBs; and (4) any other efforts to prevent youth offenses. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DJS can implement the bill using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A YSB is a community-based entity that is operated to (1) provide community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and youth development; (2) ameliorate conditions that contribute to delinquency, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and family disruption; and (3) function as an advocate of youth needs.

To be eligible to receive State funding, a YSB must provide, at convenient hours and free of charge or at a reasonable rate based on the client's family income:

- individual, family, or group counseling;
- referral and information services;
- crisis intervention, including intervention relating to youth suicide prevention;
- alcohol and drug abuse assessment and referral services by staff who have received specified assessment and referral training;
- informal counseling; and
- in accordance with the needs of the community and subject to the availability of funds, (1) tutoring; (2) alternative leisure activities; (3) employment assistance; (4) community education, including training and information relating to youth suicide prevention; (5) aftercare services; and (6) other specialized services.

The State and local government must jointly fund an eligible YSB. The State must provide 75% of the funding, as provided in the State budget. Each eligible YSB must submit a proposed annual budget to DJS. The proposed DJS budget must list the eligible YSBs and estimate the amount of State funds to be allocated to each YSB. A local governing body that provides matching funds for a YSB may choose to have State funds paid directly to the private sponsor or to the local governing body.

State Expenditures: DJS can produce the required report with existed budgeted resources.

In practice, DJS does not handle oversight or funding of YSBs. Although YSBs are not specifically funded as a program or line item in the budget, grants are generally provided from the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF). The Governor's Office for Children (reestablished as a freestanding office by [Executive Order 01.01.2024.05](#)) awards funds from CCIF to local management boards (LMBs). LMBs may distribute CCIF funds at their discretion.

There are eight YSBs operating in the State in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, and Prince George's counties. In fiscal 2024, five YSBs received a total of \$925,032 from CCIF, with two YSBs receiving more than \$200,000. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (formerly the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services) provided a \$50,000 grant to the District Heights Family & Youth Services Bureau, for total YSB funding of \$975,032. Two YSBs did not receive any State funding.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2025
rh/aad
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