

HOUSE BILL 915

D4, O4

6lr2770

By: **Delegates Hill, Woods, Alston, Arian, Griffith, D. Jones, Kaufman, McComas, Pasteur, Reilly, Taveras, Taylor, White Holland, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care; and generally
4 relating to the Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care.

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That:

7 (a) There is a Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care.

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

9 (1) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (2) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
11 designee;

12 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

13 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
14 Secretary's designee; and

15 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

16 (i) 15 individuals who are at least 18 years old and under the age of
17 25 years, who:

18 1. have aged out of foster care;

19 2. are currently aging out of foster care; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



3. are members of the Department of Human Services' Youth

Youth;

Social Workers;

Children, Youth and Families at the University of Maryland;

2. the Legal Aid Bureau;

3. the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and

4. the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of

5. the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of

6. the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition;

7. the Governor's Office for Children;

8. the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards;

9. the Karabelle Pizzigati Initiative in Advocacy for

10. Disability Rights Maryland;

11. the State Citizens Review Board for Children;

12. the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children;

13. the Office of the Public Defender;

14. the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition; and

15. Free State Justice.

(c) The Workgroup shall select a member to serve as chair of the Workgroup.

(d) The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(e) A member of the Workgroup is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Workgroup shall:

(1) identify the types of resources currently available for youth who have aged out of foster care to achieve self-sufficiency, including stable housing, food security, reliable transportation, educational programs, employment, physical and behavioral health care services, disability accommodations, financial resources, and other services to address basic needs;

(2) determine the effectiveness of currently available resources, and identify challenges with current services and programs that are offered before a youth ages out of the system and seek to assist youth to successfully transition into adulthood and self-sufficiency;

(3) determine the types of resources that youth who have aged out of foster care are most likely to utilize when seeking continuing support, such as adults, peers, financial assistance organizations, and community groups;

(4) identify the circumstances under which youth in foster care were removed from the youth's home county during any period of foster care; and

(5) identify programs that have successfully improved outcomes for youth who have aged out of foster care, such as a hotline or an anonymous support line.

(g) On or before June 1, 2027, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.