

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 524

(Senator M. Washington)(By Request - Baltimore City
Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office

This bill authorizes access to and confidential use of a juvenile police record and court record by specified offices within the Baltimore City Mayor's Office if the office is providing programs and services to a child who is the subject of the record, for a purpose relevant to the provision of the programs and services and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan. For access to court records, the office must be providing the programs and services to the child in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). A Baltimore City Mayor's office authorized to access these records under the bill must be liable for the unauthorized release of a record it accesses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes only the following offices in the Baltimore City Mayor's Office to access the confidential use of juvenile police and court records: (1) Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; (2) Office of Children and Family Success; and (3) Office of African American Male Engagement.

Current Law: In general, police and court records concerning a child are confidential, and their contents may not be divulged, by subpoena or otherwise, except by court order upon a showing of good cause or in certain circumstances relating to notification of a local superintendent or nonpublic school principal upon the arrest of a child for specified offenses. This prohibition does not restrict access to and the use of court records in court proceedings involving the child by personnel of the court, the State's Attorney, counsel for the child, a court-appointed special advocate for the child, or authorized DJS personnel. Subject to certain exceptions, the restriction also does not prohibit access to and confidential use of police and court records of a child by DJS or in an investigation and prosecution by a law enforcement agency.

Additional exceptions are specified in statute, including access to a court record by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or a local health department if MDH or the local department is providing treatment, services, or care in coordination with DJS to a child who is the subject of the record, for a purpose relevant to the provision of the treatment, services, or care. MDH and the local departments must keep an obtained court record confidential in accordance with the laws and policies applicable to MDH and the local departments.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1145 (Delegate Lewis)(By Request - Baltimore City Administration) - Judiciary.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
jg/aad

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