

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 475
Judiciary

(Delegate Pippy, *et al.*)

Department of Juvenile Services - Employees - Prohibited Convictions (Juvenile Offender Protection Act)

This bill prohibits the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) from knowingly hiring or retaining an individual who has been convicted of any of the following crimes, unless the judgment of conviction for the crime was reversed or vacated: (1) abduction; (2) kidnapping; (3) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; (4) murder; (5) rape; (6) sexual offense in the first or second degree; (7) first-degree child abuse; (8) sexual abuse of a minor; (9) felony sex trafficking or forced marriage; (10) continuing course of conduct with a child; (11) first-degree assault; or (12) assault with intent to murder, rape, or commit a first- or second-degree sexual offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: While there are no statutes that specifically align with the provisions of the bill, DJS is required to conduct employment-related criminal background checks. Pursuant to § 9-209 of the Human Services Article, on or before the first day of employment with DJS, the department must apply to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Central

Repository in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for a federal and State criminal history records check for each employee of DJS.

CJIS must provide the requested information to DJS in accordance with specified statutes. If criminal history record information is reported to CJIS after the date of the criminal history records check, CJIS must provide to DJS and the employee a revised printed statement of the employee's criminal history record information. As part of the application for a criminal history records check, DJS must submit to CJIS the employee's fingerprints and fees, as specified.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 652 and SB 454 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2026
caw/aad

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