

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 537 (Senator McCray)
 Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund - Establishment

This bill establishes the Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund, to be administered by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCP). The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to community-based programs, including youth service bureaus (YSBs), that provide services 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) advocate for youth needs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 annually to capitalize the fund; special fund revenues to and expenditures from the fund increase correspondingly. General fund expenditures increase by *as much as* \$47,900 in FY 2027 for GOCCP to administer the fund. Future years reflect annualization and ongoing costs.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
SF Revenue	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
GF Expenditure	\$147,900	\$153,300	\$156,000	\$158,600	\$161,200
SF Expenditure	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Net Effect	(\$147,900)	(\$153,300)	(\$156,000)	(\$158,600)	(\$161,200)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill may increase grants to and services provided by YSBs.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The fund consists of (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the fund; (2) interest earnings of the fund; and (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund. The fund may be used only for carrying out the purpose of the fund, and expenditures from the fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget. Money expended from the fund for carrying out the purpose of the fund is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for carrying out the purpose of the fund.

The fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion requirements under § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article. The Treasurer must hold the fund separately, and the Comptroller must account for the fund. No part of the fund may revert or be credited to the General Fund or any other special fund of the State. The fund is subject to audit by the Office of Legislative Audits.

Reporting Requirements: On or before December 1, 2027, and every December 1 thereafter, GOCPP must submit a report to the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation, and the House Appropriations committees that includes for the immediately preceding fiscal year:

- the amount of funds transferred and distributed from the fund;
- the number of grants distributed by the fund;
- the amount of each grant distributed by the fund;
- the number of children and families served using the grants distributed from the fund, disaggregated by (1) age of the child, (2) geographic region, (3) race, and (4) ethnicity;
- if a child or family served using the grants distributed from the fund has interacted with the criminal justice system or the juvenile justice system after receiving the grant;
- the amount of any unspent money in the fund; and
- the reasons why the unspent funds, if any, were not spent.

Current Law:

Youth Service Bureaus

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 the Department of Juvenile Services (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:

Capitalization of the New Special Fund and Grants to Community – Based Programs

General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$100,000 annually to capitalize the Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund created under the bill. Although the bill does not include a mandated appropriation or otherwise specify a funding amount, this analysis assumes that \$100,000 annually is needed in order to implement a modest grant program in accordance with the bill. Special fund revenues to and expenditures from the fund increase correspondingly each year, reflecting receipt of the capitalization funds and spending from the fund as grants are awarded.

Administrative Costs for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

The bill does not authorize the new special fund to be used for administrative costs; thus, additional funds are needed as existing staff within GOCPP cannot handle the additional workload created by the bill. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by *as much*

as \$47,885 in fiscal 2027, which reflects the bill's October 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time grants specialist to administer the fund, ensure proper compliance, and prepare the annual report. It is the maximum anticipated personnel and personnel expenditures needed to implement the bill.

Position	0.5
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$39,786
Operating Expenses	<u>8,099</u>
Maximum FY 2027 GOCCP Personnel Expenditures	\$47,885

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1058 (Delegate Woods, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services - Office of Legislative Audits; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/aad

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