

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

DATE: 2/27/2020

BILL NUMBER: HB 778 – Correctional Officer Retirement System - Membership

DJS POSTITION: Support with Amendments

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) supports HB 778 with amendments.

This bill as amended adds DJS Case Management Specialists (CMS) and Case Management Specialist Supervisors (CMSS) to the Correctional Officers Retirement System, also known as CORS.

HB 778 enhances public safety and promotes better outcomes for youth and families by:

- Serving as a proven and effective retention tool – DJS Resident Advisor turnover peaked at over 70% annually; since these staff members have joined CORS turnover has been on a steady decline, currently standing at to 12.2%
- Making sure DJS can successfully supervise and treat a vulnerable and high-needs population by retaining our most experienced staff

HB 778 promotes fairness by offering state employees doing similar work, similar benefits. Like adult probation and parole agents, DJS case managers:

- Are trained in the same academy as the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) probation agents
- Meet with youth in their homes, facilities, and communities
- Make sure restitution is paid and community service hours are completed
- Monitor youth and help promote safer communities

Unlike adult probation staff:

- DJS case managers are not part of CORS and do not receive a 20-year retirement
- The disparity between DJS and DPSCS results in our most seasoned staff moving to adult parole and probation, taking with them specialized knowledge, training and experience working with children while the retirement cost to the State is the same

DJS urges a favorable report on HB 778 with amendments.