

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Sam Abed  
Secretary

**DATE:** 2/13/2020

**BILL NUMBER:** HB0672 - Children in Need of Assistance - Qualified Residential Treatment Program - Definition

**DJS POSTITION:** Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) supports HB0673.

HB0673 makes a technical correction to the definition of “qualified residential treatment program” (QRTP); specifying that such a program must be licensed in accordance with federal standards and receives accreditation from approved non-profit organizations.

During the interim, DJS worked closely with our agency partners in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to come into compliance with the Family First Preventative Services Act (FFPSA), which requires that group home placements must be quality, appropriate settings to qualify as a QRTP and to receive Title IV-E reimbursement.

QRTPs are required to meet a multitude of standards including utilizing trauma-informed treatment models, employing licensed medical and behavioral health professionals and providing family-based aftercare supports. For every child placed in a QRTP, DJS staff must ensure that a qualified individual assesses the youth and coordinate treatment/services with the courts and DHS.

HB0673 will continue to support reform efforts aimed at bringing human service agencies together to jointly plan and deliver services to support youth and their families such as the DJS Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). CYPM is designed to address the unique needs of youth who fluctuate between and are known to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. CYPM brings together social service and juvenile justice agencies to jointly case-plan and deliver services to youth in the system that best meets their needs.

For these reasons DJS urges a favorable report for HB0673.