

SB 146 - DJS Testimony - Support.pdf

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Secretary

DATE: 1/27/2021
BILL NUMBER: SB 146 – Department of Juvenile Services – Deputy Secretaries
DJS POSTITION: Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) supports SB 146, which adds a third deputy secretary to the organizational structure of the department. This deputy secretary would be dedicated to lead the department’s statewide community operations.

SB 146 supports focusing on treatment in the community.

The Deputy Secretary of Community Operations would oversee all the agency’s community-based services, programs, and initiatives. This position would lead the following critical, statewide operations:

- 24/7 community detention programming;
- Intake and pre-adjudication interventions;
- Resource development, including strengthening the DJS community-based programs and necessary out-of-home placement continuum;
- Community supervision, probation, and aftercare services;
- Reentry from out-of-placement; and
- Equity and reform initiatives, including youth and family engagement and victim services.

SB 146 reflects the importance of community operations to the department’s mission and reforms.

Adding this position strengthens DJS’s organizational structure by properly aligning responsibilities and duties within the agency. DJS community staff handled 14,913 juvenile complaints at intake in FY 2020, with an average of 3,018 youth under some form of community supervision at any time. The vast majority of youth served by the Department receive services in the community and appropriate leadership is critical to supporting our communities and promoting public safety.

Under the Department’s current structure, the Department’s two Deputy Secretaries are currently dedicated to managing the agency’s 13 detention and committed facilities and leading support services for the department, including training, human resources, research and evaluation, and procurement.

SB 146 has no fiscal impact.

As this bill moves an existing Assistant Secretary position to a Deputy Secretary position, it results in no additional expenditure.

For these reasons, DJS urges a favorable report on SB 146.