

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

Date: March 31, 2022

Title: SB 172 - Department of Juvenile Services – Facilities – J. DeWeese Carter Center

Committee: Judiciary

Position: Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports SB 172.

Current law provides that DJS may establish and operate facilities “that are necessary to properly diagnose, care for, train, educate, and rehabilitate children who need of those services,” and includes a list of the DJS operated detention and committed treatment programs. Md Code, Human Services, 9-226.

SB 172 proposes to update the current list of DJS operated facilities, and more accurately reflect programmatic services provided in the detention and treatment programs.

- **SB 172 removes the J. DeWeese Carter Center from the statutory list of DJS operated detention and committed treatment facilities.** On June 30, 2020, DJS closed the J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility, which operated as a hardware secure committed treatment program for girls in Chestertown, MD. The closure of the Carter Center reflects the continued downward trend in the DJS committed population over the last several years, and DJS’ efforts to increase access to community-based treatment when appropriate. Girls requiring treatment services in an out-of-home placement are currently served through a continuum of privately contracted programs. (See, DJS Data Resource Guide, FY 2021, page 160 <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Treatment-Programs.pdf>)
- **SB 172 removes “train” from the list of services provided in DJS operated detention and treatment facilities.** “Train” is unnecessary, and career, job, or workforce training is included in educational programming.

For these reasons DJS urges a favorable report on SB 172.