

Aruna Miller  
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore  
Governor

Vincent Schiraldi  
Acting Secretary

**Date:** February, 23 2023  
**Bill # / Title:** SB 703 -Juvenile Law – Community Detention  
**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**Position:** Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports SB 703.

SB 703 clarifies that judges hearing bail reviews for youth in the adult criminal justice system may utilize existing and effective DJS community detention and electronic monitoring options as an alternative to private home detention or county-based systems in appropriate cases. By expanding community detention as a pre-trial release option for courts, low risk young people may remain in the community with supervision and supports.

**DJS currently operates a statewide, 24-hour system of community detention.**

The program includes electronic monitoring, home detention and GPS monitoring. This program allows judges and magistrates to order that youth who are eligible to be released from detention to the custody of a parent or other family member, subject to certain conditions including home detention or GPS monitoring. This bill provides for an alternative to detention in appropriate cases.

**DJS has the capacity to safely and securely monitor these youth with existing resources.**

SB703 prevents youth from remaining detained because they or their family cannot pay for private home detention. Additionally, it relieves county-run or DPSCS-run home detention programs of the obligation to monitor these youth. HB 703 provides DJS an additional tool to manage the population of youth charged as adults who are housed in DJS facilities.

For these reasons, DJS urges a favorable report on SB 703.