

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

**LETTER OF INFORMATION
SENATE BILL 744**

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Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) is a coordinating office advising the Governor on criminal justice strategies. The office plans, promotes, and funds efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims.

Senate Bill 744 expands juvenile court jurisdiction, expands permissible reasons for detaining a child, extends probation periods, and alters the Department of Juvenile Services' intake process and requirements for forwarding case information to State's Attorneys. The bill also reorganizes the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices, adding members to the Commission, imposing membership term limits, providing for a Commission Chair and Secretary, and designating GOCPP to staff the Commission.

As currently written, this bill could increase or leave unchanged the number of youth detained in adult facilities. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) provides that a State may not detain a child in an adult facility unless, after a hearing, a court determines the placement is "in the best interest of justice." If, after such a hearing, a child remains in an adult facility, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires sight and sound separation between the incarcerated children under 18 and adults.

Maryland's Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor, housed in GOCPP, reported 1263 violations of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Acts, 223(a)(11)(b) requirement in FY23. Violations could jeopardize 20% of Title II funding (JJAC), approximately \$175,000.