

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore
Governor

Vincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: March 27, 2025
Bill Number/Title: HB 1265 / Juveniles - Arrests for Reportable Offenses
Committee: EEE
DJS Position: Support with Amendment

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports HB 1265 with amendments. DJS requested this bill to strengthen information-sharing protocols when a student transfers schools and to improve coordination between the juvenile justice system and Maryland's public schools. These changes will enhance student support and school safety.

As introduced, HB 1265 requires superintendents to transmit reportable offense information when a youth transfers or enrolls in a new school. Additionally, it ensures that the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) aligns with the responsibilities of Maryland school system superintendents by mandating that JSEP share reportable offense arrest and disposition information with the receiving school system. This critical step helps maintain continuity of information, allowing schools to provide appropriate services and support while prioritizing safety.

HB 1265 was amended in the House to:

- Limit the list of reportable offenses;
- Modify DJS's responsibilities in reporting to local schools;
- Change prohibited behavior on school grounds; and
- Alter the composition of the workgroup.

DJS supports limiting the number of reportable offenses and takes no position on changes to prohibited behavior on school grounds.

DJS is requesting two amendments. The first preserves the original language and upholds the bill's intent to close an information gap by requiring JSEP to transfer educational records when a youth reenrolls in a different school system. The second reinstates DJS as the co-lead alongside the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in developing and reporting an operational protocol for transmitting reportable offense information.

Amendment 1: Restore Language on Educational Records Transfer

On Page 4: Restore the language on line 26

On page 5: Restore the language on lines 1- 10

On page 5: Strike lines 11 through 30

Amendment 2:

On page 9, Line 20: The **Department of Juvenile Services** and the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, the Juvenile Services Education Program, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, shall develop an operational protocol to guide the transmission of information as required under Section 1 of this Act.

For these reasons, DJS respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1265 with amendments.

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