

Aruna Miller  
Lt. GovernorWes Moore  
GovernorVincent Schiraldi  
Secretary

**Date:** February 14, 2025  
**Bill Number/Title:** HB 522 - Department of Juvenile Services – Rehabilitation Services – Funding  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**DJS Position:** Support - With Amendment

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports HB 522 with an amendment. HB 522 would allow the court to provide treatment services for up to one year. DJS currently funds substance use interventions for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent and committed to the department for treatment. This includes access to residential treatment programs, some of which are located out of state.

DJS recognizes the importance of expanding residential substance use treatment programs for youth. DJS proposes an amendment that strikes the bill and adds language requiring the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices to study the need for substance use treatment services statewide. Since the Commission has just begun its work, it is well-positioned to assess existing gaps in treatment and provide informed recommendations. Moreover, the amendment requires the Commission to provide an ongoing review of the evolving needs of youth who require substance use treatment.

The Administration and DJS are acutely aware of the need to support youth with substance use disorders and prevention services, therefore the Governor's budget includes a \$3 million investment to support residential substance use treatment for youth. While the Catoctin Treatment Center is referenced in the budget, DJS is not limited to that location and remains committed to partnering with the Maryland Department of Health and other key stakeholders to identify and explore viable options for expanding residential services.

For these reasons, DJS requests a favorable amendment on HB 522.

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