

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore
Governor

Vincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: March 5, 2025
Bill Number/Title: HB 1265 / Juveniles - Arrests for Reportable Offenses
Committee: Ways and Means
DJS Position: Support with Amendment

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports HB 1265, which strengthens information-sharing protocols when a student transfers schools, and between the juvenile justice system and Maryland's public schools to enhance student support and school safety.

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.

The legislation also directs DJS and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop and report to the Maryland General Assembly on an operational protocol for information transmission. This protocol will clarify the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, state attorneys, local superintendents, and JSEP, establishing a clear and efficient process for information-sharing.

Amendment:

DJS is requesting one amendment to include the Maryland Superintendents Association to assist in developing information sharing protocol.

Amendment 1:

Page 6, Line 22 (a) The Department of Juvenile Services and the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, the Juvenile Services Education Program, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, **Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland** 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.

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