



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

April 1, 2026

House Government Labor & Elections Committee

Senate Bill 776 — Commission on the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children - Establishment

POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, we respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 776.

Senate Bill 776 establishes a Commission to study and document the history, operations, and deaths associated with the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, with the goal of providing a full and public accounting of the children who lived and died there. This effort represents an important step toward acknowledging a deeply significant chapter in Maryland's history and ensuring that the experiences of these children are not forgotten.

Prince George's County is home to a diverse and historically rich community, and we recognize the importance of confronting past injustices particularly those that impacted vulnerable youth in State care. The establishment of this Commission reflects a commitment to transparency, historical accuracy, and restorative understanding. By examining the conditions, treatment, and outcomes experienced by children placed in this institution, the State can better inform current policy decisions and ensure that systems serving youth today are grounded in accountability and dignity.

Importantly, this legislation is not only about historical reflection, it is about learning and applying those lessons to strengthen Maryland's child-serving systems moving forward. The data, findings, and recommendations generated by this Commission will help guide policymakers, agencies, and local governments in improving oversight, safeguarding youth, and preventing the repetition of past harms.

The Prince George's County Council strongly supports efforts that elevate truth, promote equity, and ensure that all children—past, present, and future—are treated with the care and respect they deserve. Senate Bill 776 represents a meaningful step in that direction.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 776.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council