



HB915 – Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care

House Appropriations Committee

April 3, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Senator Will Smith, Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 3, 2026

The Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) expresses support for **HB0915 – Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care**

HB0915 - Establishing the Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care to identify the types of resources available for youth who have aged out of foster care to help them achieve self-sufficiency, determine the effectiveness of currently available resources and identify the challenges with current services and programs offered before a youth ages out of the system; and requiring the workgroup to submit a report of its findings. CRBC is pleased with the recommendation for the Department of Human Services to provide a one-time stipend of \$2,000 for the young people participating in the workgroup.

CRBC reviews cases of children across the entire state of Maryland in all 24 jurisdictions for youth in Out-of-Home Placement, monitors child welfare programs and makes recommendations for system improvements. Although CRBC is housed within the Department of Human Services (DHS) organizational structure, it is an independent entity overseen by its State Board.

Below are some highlights from the Annual FY2025 Report for CRBC:

Ready by 21 Independent Living Services

- 217 (56%) youths received appropriate services to adequately prepare for independent living when they leave out of home care.
- 199 (51%) of the youths completed a Life Skills Assessment.
- 207 (53%) of the youths received required independent living skills.

The Local Boards agreed that 201 (52%) of the 388 cases the youths received appropriate Independent Living Skills to prepare for transition to successful adulthood.

Employment (Age 14 and Older)

- 140 (36%) of youth participated in paid or unpaid work experience.
- 137 (35%) of 388 youths participated in paid or unpaid work relevant to career field of choice.
- 135 (35%) of youth were referred by caseworkers to summer or year-round training and employment opportunities.

Citizens Review Board for Children

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- 41 youths were identified as being 20 years old and earning a living wage.

The Local Boards agreed that in 157 (40%) of the 388 cases that the children/youths were being appropriately prepared to meet employment goals.

HB0915 will allow our agency to staff the workgroup with several governmental entities, community partners and youth with lived experience as well as though still in care that will make meaningful recommendations to change the trajectory of youth aging out of foster care. Older youth aging out of care present with persistent complexities. Similarly, exploring new and innovative strategies and ways to engage and work with older youth would support improved outcomes and preparedness for transitioning youth or emerging adults. For this reason, the Citizens Review Board for Children urges a favorable report for **HB0915**.