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Lt. GovernorWes Moore  
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Acting Secretary

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**Date:** February 5, 2025  
**Bill Number/Title:** HB 123- School Systems - Reportable Offenses - Alterations  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**DJS Position:** Oppose

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The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) opposes HB 123. DJS shares the commitment to school safety and to ensuring that schools have appropriate information to respond to serious incidents involving students. Maryland has long recognized the importance of a carefully balanced reportable offense framework—one that protects public safety while also safeguarding students’ rights and continued access to education. Any changes to this framework must be thoughtfully designed to ensure consistency, protect confidentiality, and support the needs of both students and school communities.

To achieve this balance, DJS supports a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach that brings together schools, law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile justice partners, and community voices. Involving all stakeholders ensures development of a framework that is fair, equitable, and evidence-based, ensuring that information is shared responsibly while supporting both public safety and positive youth outcomes.

Currently, the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices is leading a collaborative process through its system process workgroup, that is focused on:

- Establishing a standardized statewide process for law enforcement to notify Local Education Agencies (LEAs) of arrests for reportable offenses, including cases where the arrest occurs outside the student’s home school district;
- Creating a uniform protocol for State’s Attorney notifications to LEAs regarding case dispositions across jurisdictions;
- Addressing information gaps when students transfer between LEAs or transition between the Juvenile Services Education Program or DJS programs and community schools; and
- Standardizing the overall flow of information from arrest through disposition in a way that protects confidentiality while supporting school safety, coordination, and appropriate student services.

DJS believes that allowing the Commission’s work to continue will result in a more thoughtful, evidence-based, and equitable approach to the reportable offenses framework.

For these reasons, the Department of Juvenile Services respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 123 and encourages consideration of the Commission-led process to guide any future changes to Maryland’s Reportable Offenses framework.