

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 687 (Senator Pugh)
Judicial Proceedings

Youth Services Bureaus - Services

This bill eliminates, under provisions relating to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), a reference that certain required services by a youth services bureau (YSB) are “subject to the availability of funds.” Those services, which must be provided at convenient hours in accordance with the needs of the community, are: tutoring, alternative leisure activities, employment assistance, community education, aftercare service, and other specialized services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because the State is required by statute to provide 75% of the funding for an eligible YSB, as provided in the State budget, this bill should not have any effect on the operations or finances of DJS or the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF). Although State funding may be provided to YSBs in FY 2008 via CCIF, the Governor’s proposed 2008 budget does not dedicate funds specifically for them.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A youth services bureau is a community-based entity that is operated: (1) to provide community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention,

drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and youth development; (2) to improve the conditions that breed delinquency, youth suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and family disruption; and (3) to function as an advocate of youth needs.

DJS' rules and regulations must require each State-aided YSB to provide, at convenient hours: (1) individual, family, and group counseling; (2) referral and information services; (3) crisis intervention; (4) alcohol and drug abuse assessment and referral services; (5) informal counseling; and (6) according to a community's needs and subject to the availability of funds: tutoring, alternative leisure activities, employment assistance, community education, aftercare services, and other specialized services. The services must be provided for free or at a rate established by each YSB board of directors, in consultation with DJS, that is based on the client's family income.

The State and a local government must jointly fund an eligible YSB, with the State required to provide 75% of the funding, as provided in the State budget.

Background: Although YSB regulation is under provisions of the Annotated Code relating to DJS, for the past several years actual funding has been provided by CCIF, and not via any operating funds provided to DJS.

There are currently 21 YSBs in 8 counties as follows:

- Anne Arundel County – 2;
- Baltimore City – 3;
- Baltimore County – 4;
- Calvert County – 1, which also serves Charles and St. Mary's counties;
- Carroll County – 1;
- Dorchester County – 1;
- Montgomery County – 4; and
- Prince George's County – 5.

It is noted that some jurisdictions, such as Montgomery County, continue to provide more than the 25% of the funding to a YSB.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Services, Montgomery County,
Department of Legislative Services

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bfl/rhh

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