

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 358 (Senator Zirkin)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Judicial Proceedings

Joint Oversight Committee on the Department of Juvenile Services

This bill expands the charge of the Joint Oversight Committee on the Department of Juvenile Services to include review of reports and recommendations issued by the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit and associated responses from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). The bill also repeals the December 31, 2007 termination date of the committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 11 of 2006 established the Joint Oversight Committee on the Department of Juvenile Services as part of the Department of Juvenile Services Reform Act of 2006. The committee consists of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Delegates. The committee is staffed by the Department of Legislative Services.

The committee is charged with reviewing all reports submitted by DJS to the General Assembly, reviewing the operations of the department, monitoring the department's progress in implementing the Facilities Master Plan, recommending legislation pertaining to juvenile law, and related matters of concern.

The committee is required to submit an annual report to the General Assembly by December 1 of each year that includes findings and recommendations. The committee's authorization terminates December 31, 2007.

Chapter 12 of 2006 transferred the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor from the Governor's Office for Children to the Office of the Attorney General. The office investigates and determines whether the needs of the children under the jurisdiction of DJS are being met, their rights are being upheld, and they are free from abuse.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2007
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