

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 528 (Delegate Patterson, *et al.*)
Ways and Means and Judiciary

Education - Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program - Workgroup
Extension

This bill extends, from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021, the termination date for the Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program Workgroup. It also extends, from December 1, 2019, to December 1, 2020, the date by which the workgroup must report its concluding findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can continue the required workgroup using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program and Workgroup

Chapter 565 of 2018 established a juvenile services education county pilot program beginning in the 2019-2020 school year for one juvenile services education program to be operated by a local board of education. MSDE was required to convene a workgroup by January 1, 2019, to analyze the results of the pilot program and report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2019. The pilot program, as implemented in July 2019

by the Montgomery County Public Schools and MSDE, is in the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center.

The workgroup must study the pilot program results and make recommendations regarding:

- whether the pilot program was more effective in meeting the needs of students in juvenile services education programs than the current management model;
- the management model that should be used to provide juvenile services education programs;
- an adequate and appropriate funding formula for juvenile services education programs;
- whether a 9-month or 12-month academic calendar is appropriate;
- how to ensure that students and their educational needs seamlessly and effectively transition between the student's home, school, and the juvenile services education program and that students receive credit for their academic progress;
- how to best address staffing, curriculum, and procurement challenges in the current system;
- how to ensure that students in juvenile services education programs who have completed a high school diploma or GED have access to postsecondary options; and
- how to eliminate disparities in course offerings, staffing, and budgetary support available to students in the juvenile services education system (JSES) and to students served by public schools in the State.

The workgroup is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2020. Although the workgroup submitted a report in December 2019, the report did not include final findings and recommendations. The report noted that the original timeline and submission date of the report only allowed analysis of the pilot program's summer school session and two months of the regular school year and that the workgroup needed additional time to adequately fulfill its charge.

Educational Services in Juvenile Facilities

MSDE first assumed responsibility for educating juveniles within residential facilities operated by the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) in 2003, when it assumed control over educational programming at one facility. Chapter 535 of 2004 expanded on these efforts and required MSDE to provide educational services in all of the residential facilities within specified timeframes. By July 1, 2013, MSDE had assumed control of educational programming at all DJS facilities under JSES within MSDE. At the time Chapter 535 was enacted, it was assumed that MSDE, being the overseer of education services for the State, was better positioned to ensure the provision of adequate education services to the population of youth under the care of DJS. However, concerns have been raised

questioning whether MSDE is providing the appropriate level of services to students in DJS facilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Bills that included provisions to extend the termination and reporting dates for the workgroup, among other provisions, were considered in the 2019 session. HB 1345 received a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee, but was subsequently withdrawn. HB 1074 passed the House as amended and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Public Defender; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

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