

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 924

(Senator Smith)

Judicial Proceedings

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**State Government - Office of the Correctional Ombudsman - Juvenile Justice  
Monitor - Appointment**

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This bill requires the full-time director of the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) to be appointed by the Correctional Ombudsman and serve for a term of four years. If the Correctional Ombudsman appoints a full-time Director of JJMU who has previously served in that role, the appointment must be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The function of JJMU, within the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman, is to investigate and determine whether the needs of the children under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) are being met in compliance with State law, their rights are being upheld, and they are not being abused. JJMU's duties include (1) evaluating the child advocacy grievance process, the DJS monitoring process, the treatment of and services to youth, the facility's physical conditions, and the adequacy of staffing at each facility owned or operated by DJS; (2) reviewing all reports of disciplinary actions, grievances, and grievance dispositions received from each facility and alterations in the status or placement of a child that result in more security, additional obligations, or less personal freedom; (3) performing unannounced site visits and on-site inspections of

facilities; (4) receiving and reviewing all incident reports submitted to DJS from facilities; and (5) receiving reports of the findings of child protective services investigations of allegations of abuse or neglect of a child in facilities.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2025  
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