



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 1136**

**DATE: March 7, 2024**

**SPONSOR: Delegates Boafu, Holmes, Taylor, and McCaskill**

**ASSIGNED TO: Appropriations**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS (Department of Health and Human Services)**

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### **Human Services - Youth Services Bureaus - Funding (Youth Services Bureau Restoration Act)**

Among other provisions, House Bill 1136 requires the Governor to include in the annual budget beginning in fiscal year 2026 an appropriation of at least \$4.8M to fund youth service bureaus that meet the requirements of the bill. Each local jurisdiction is required to provide at least a 25% match for the funds receive from the state for their youth service bureau, and the State is required to allocate at least \$200,000 to each youth service bureau for every local jurisdiction that provides it matching funding. The Department of Human Services is required to report annually on information about residents served by the Youth Service Bureau and outcomes of the programming.

Montgomery County formerly operated Youth Service Centers, which provided community-oriented delinquency prevention, youth suicide prevention, drug and alcohol use prevention, and youth development services. These services were established in the 1970s and were originally funded with federal funding for local law enforcement and crime prevention funds. Over time they included more formal counseling services and increased outreach work which resulted in connections with schools, and eventually evolved into the school-based services contracts the County now has in place. Since current services have transitioned from the Youth Service Centers of the past, House Bill 1136 would require Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to allocate additional fiscal resources and personnel resources for monitoring of new noncompete contracts in order to not disrupt similar and complementary services currently provided to students and families. Additionally, the bill prescribes the types of services each Youth Service Bureau shall provide.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests an amendment to remove the mandate on local jurisdictions to provide matching funds to Youth Service Bureaus and an amendment to create opportunities for collaboration and consultation between county entities already providing similar services and the State to best make use of the funding provided by the State appropriation under the bill and avoid duplicative services and administrative structures. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services urges the committee to issue a favorable report with these amendments.