

SENATE BILL 636

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4lr1365

By: **Senators West, Watson, and Carozza**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Law – Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of Juvenile**
3 **Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of
5 Juvenile Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders; and
6 generally relating to the Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of
7 Juvenile Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Commission to Study the Ability of the Department of Juvenile
11 Services to Provide Effective Social Services to Juvenile Offenders.

12 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

13 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the Chair of the
14 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;

15 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Chair of the
16 House Judiciary Committee;

17 (3) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (4) one representative appointed by the Office of the Public Defender;

19 (5) one representative appointed by the Maryland State's Attorneys'
20 Association;

21 (6) the State Police Chief, or the Police Chief's designee; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(7) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Commission shall:

(1) review and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies and practices of the Department of Juvenile Services relating to:

(i) the supervision and monitoring of juvenile offenders;

(ii) treatment programs;

(iii) intervention and prevention services;

(iv) rehabilitative services;

(v) community supervision; and

(vi) mental health services provided to juvenile offenders;

(2) consider available evidence-based assessments of Department of Juvenile Services programs;

(3) develop data relating to the number of juvenile offenders and the length and frequency of juvenile participation;

(4) investigate the effectiveness of Department of Juvenile Services programs and services aimed at juvenile offenders;

(5) assess the total cost associated with Department of Juvenile Services programs and services within the last 5 fiscal years;

(6) make recommendations regarding improvements to the Department of Juvenile Services residential programs;

(7) assess and make recommendations regarding the ability of the

1 Department of Juvenile Services to provide social services to juvenile offenders; and

2 (8) make recommendations regarding budgetary appropriations to sustain
3 and improve Department of Juvenile Services programs and services.

4 (g) On or before December 1, 2025, the Commission shall report its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31,
9 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated
10 and of no further force and effect.