

Chapter 653

(House Bill 721)

AN ACT concerning

Juvenile Services – Services and Programs for Females

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to serve children in the juvenile services system with programming that provides females with certain services and programs; altering the duties of the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services; requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to juvenile services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 9–215 and 9–238.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Human Services9–215.

In addition to its other duties specified in this title, the State Advisory Board shall:

(1) consult with and advise the Secretary on:

(i) each aspect of the juvenile services program in the State;

(ii) the educational programs and services of the Department; [and]

(iii) programs designed to divert children from the juvenile justice system; AND

**(IV) THE TREATMENT AND PROGRAMMING NEEDS OF FEMALES
IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM;**

(2) recommend to the Secretary policies and programs to improve juvenile services in the State;

(3) participate in interpreting for the public the objectives of the Department; and

(4) participate in planning the development and use of available resources to meet the needs of the Department.

9–238.1.

(a) The Department shall serve children in the juvenile services system with programming that:

- (1) ensures the safety of the community and the children served;
- (2) holds delinquent children accountable to victims and communities;
- (3) assists children to develop competencies to become successful members of society;
- (4) delivers services on a regional basis through at least four operational regions;

(5) (i) ensures that each committed facility owned by the Department serves no more than 48 children at one time; and

(ii) ensures that each committed facility licensed by the Department serves no more than 48 children at one time, unless the Secretary finds good cause for a committed facility licensed by the Department to serve more than 48 children at one time; [and]

(6) uses detention and committed facilities that are operationally separate from each other and that do not share common program space, including dining halls and educational or recreational facilities; AND

(7) PROVIDES FEMALES WITH A RANGE AND QUALITY OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS ~~SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OFFERED TO MALES~~ TO MEET THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS, INCLUDING:

(I) DIVERSION PROGRAMS;

(II) COMMUNITY DETENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS; AND

(III) REENTRY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

(b) A region shall:

(1) include at least one secure facility used solely for children pending court disposition and children awaiting placement after disposition;

(2) except for specialized services as provided in subsection (c) of this section, include a number of committed facilities estimated to be necessary to diagnose, care for, train, educate, and properly rehabilitate every child from the region in the custody of the Department; and

(3) include a nonpublic facility only if the Department determines that the facility:

(i) has provided or will efficiently and effectively provide adequate care for the children placed in the facility; and

(ii) has demonstrated or will demonstrate a record of success based on standards promulgated by the Department.

(c) The Department may place a child into a committed facility outside the child's region if a determination is made by the Department that specialized services for the child require the placement in the best interests of the child.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before December 31, 2017, the Department of Juvenile Services shall submit an interim report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the implementation of the requirements specified in § 9-238.1(a)(7) of the Human Services Article, as enacted by this Act.

(b) On or before December 31, 2018, the Department shall submit a final report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the implementation of the requirements specified in § 9-238.1(a)(7) of the Human Services Article, as enacted by this Act.

~~SECTION 2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.