



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 484

February Session, 2004

House Bill No. 5294

House of Representatives, April 6, 2004

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN FOR GIRLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) The Department of
2 Children and Families and the Court Support Services Division shall
3 jointly develop and implement a juvenile justice plan for girls in order
4 to enhance the continuum of care and services provided to girls in the
5 juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to, the improvement
6 of intensive crisis stabilization, assessment and treatment services.
7 Pursuant to such plan, the Department of Children and Families and
8 the Court Support Services Division shall provide a sufficient number
9 of the following programs and services to meet the needs of girls in the
10 juvenile justice system: (1) Multidimensional treatment foster care
11 programs; (2) enhanced clinical staffing at girls' residential treatment
12 centers; (3) short-term respite care beds; (4) community based,
13 culturally competent and gender specific behavioral health services; (5)
14 restorative justice programs; and (6) community service programs.

15 (b) The Department of Children and Families and the Court Support
 16 Services Division, in conjunction with a qualified and independent
 17 entity selected by the Commissioner of Children and Families and the
 18 Chief Court Administrator, shall annually evaluate the quality and
 19 cost effectiveness of programs and services developed pursuant to this
 20 section. Not later than January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
 21 Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court
 22 Administrator shall submit a report containing the findings of such
 23 evaluation to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 11-4a
 24 of the general statutes.

25 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the Judicial
 26 Department, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services,
 27 shall develop and implement mechanisms to maximize federal
 28 reimbursement and funding for programs and services developed
 29 pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Judicial Dept.; Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant
Social Services, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The Judicial Department and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) would incur significant annual costs to implement a juvenile justice plan for girls in accordance with the bill. The magnitude of these costs cannot be determined until a plan for implementation is jointly developed by the Judicial Department and DCF, but is likely to be in excess of \$1 million.

The DCF and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department would have to retain consultant services to comply with a requirement of the bill that an independent entity evaluate the quality and cost effectiveness of these programs and services. The associated cost is estimated to be approximately \$300,000 in FY 05 and \$200,000 in subsequent fiscal years. No funding for this purpose has been included under either agency’s budget in sHB 5033 (the Revised FY 05 Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee).

In addition, the state would incur an annual cost of approximately \$325,000 for the Department of Children and Families to develop and implement mechanisms for maximizing federal reimbursement,

including salaries, other expenses and fringe benefits.¹ No funding has been included in sHB 5033 for this purpose. The Department of Social Services currently dedicates significant staff time to maximizing the receipt of federal funds. It is expected that they can accommodate the requirements of this bill within their current efforts.

¹ The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The total fringe benefit reimbursement rate as a percentage of payroll is 45.82%, effective July 1, 2003. However, first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs lowering the rate to 20.23% in FY 05. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5294

AN ACT CONCERNING A JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN FOR GIRLS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to jointly develop and implement a juvenile justice plan for girls. They must evaluate the quality and cost-effectiveness of the plan's programs and services and make annual reports to the legislature. In conjunction with the Department of Social Services, they must develop and implement mechanisms to maximize federal reimbursement and funding for the plan's programs and services.

The purpose of the plan is to enhance the continuum of care and services provided to girls in the juvenile justice system, including improved (1) intensive crisis stabilization, (2) assessments, and (3) treatment services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

MINIMUM PLAN COMPONENTS

The juvenile justice plan must include a sufficient number of programs for girls in the following areas:

1. multidimensional treatment foster care;
2. short-term respite care;
3. community-based, culturally competent and gender-specific behavioral health;
4. restorative justice; and
5. community service.

It must also enhance clinical staffing at girls' residential treatment centers.

EVALUATIONS AND REPORTING

DCF and CSSD must evaluate the quality and cost-effectiveness of the plan's programs and services on a yearly basis. They must do this in conjunction with a qualified, independent entity selected by the DCF commissioner and chief court administrator.

Beginning January 1, 2006, the DCF commissioner and chief court administrator must submit to the legislature yearly reports containing the evaluations' findings.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

Substitute HB 5366 (file 219), favorably reported by the Select Committee on Children, requires DCF to establish a plan for a continuum of community-based services to prevent incarceration of female status offenders and delinquents.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 42 Nay 0