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A BILL
22-950

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee as a board within the District government to identify challenges and resolve issues that students in detainment, commitment, incarceration, and foster care face in order to improve educational outcomes; and to make conforming amendments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) “Coordinating Committee” means Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.

(2) “OSSE” means Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

(3) “Resident” means an individual who presently resides in the District or who was residing in the District at the time the individual became a student in the care of D.C.

(4) “Student in the Care of D.C.” means a resident of the District under 25 years of age who is incarcerated or detained by, committed and under the custody of, or otherwise under the supervision of the:

- 27 (A) Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services;
- 28 (B) Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency;
- 29 (C) Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia;
- 30 (D) Family Court Social Services Division;
- 31 (E) Child and Family Services Agency;
- 32 (F) Department of Corrections; or
- 33 (G) Federal Bureau of Prisons.

34 Sec. 3. Establishment of the Coordinating Committee.

35 (a) The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee is established as a board
36 within the District government.

37 (b) The Coordinating Committee shall be headed by a Director appointed by the Mayor
38 with the advice and consent of the Council in accordance with section 2(a) of the Confirmation
39 Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(a)).

40 (c) The Coordinating Committee shall facilitate interagency, department-level leadership
41 in planning, policymaking, program development, and budgeting for successful educational
42 experiences and outcomes for students in the care of D.C.

43 (d) The Mayor shall designate an agency in the education sector to provide staff
44 assistance and administrative support to the Coordinating Committee.

45 Sec. 4. Membership of the Coordinating Committee.

ENGROSSED ORIGINAL

46 (a) The Coordinating Committee shall consist of 29 members, which includes 25 voting
47 members and 4 nonvoting members, as follows:

48 (1) The following governmental voting members or their designees:

49 (A) State Superintendent, OSSE;

50 (B) Director, ReEngagement Center;

51 (C) Director, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services;

52 (D) Director, Child and Family Services Agency;

53 (E) Director, Department of Corrections;

54 (F) Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools;

55 (G) Executive Director, Public Charter School Board;

56 (H) President, University of the District of Columbia Community College;

57 (I) Director, Family Court Social Services Division;

58 (J) Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia;

59 (K) Executive Director, Corrections Information Council;

60 (L) Director, Department of Behavioral Health;

61 (M) Attorney General for the District of Columbia;

62 (N) Director, Department of Disability Services;

63 (O) Director, District of Columbia Public Defender Service; and

64 (P) Deputy Mayor for Education;

65 (2) The following nongovernmental voting members:

66 (A) A parent, guardian, or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C.;

67 (B) A current or former student involved in the juvenile or criminal justice
68 system;

69 (C) A current or former student involved in the foster care system;

70 (D) A representative from an organization that provide services to students
71 involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system;

72 (E) A representative from an organization that provides services to
73 students involved in the foster care system;

74 (F) An education attorney representing students in the care of D.C.
75 involved in the juvenile and criminal system;

76 (G) An attorney representing students in the care of D.C. involved in the
77 foster care system; and

78 (H) One representative each from 2 charter school local education
79 agencies.

80 (3) The following nonvoting governmental members or their designees, who the
81 Mayor shall invite to participate:

82 (A) Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the
83 District of Columbia;

84 (B) Director, Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia; and

85 (C) Director, Bureau of Prisons; and

86 (4) The Director of the Coordinating Committee, who shall serve as a nonvoting

87 member.

88 (b)(1) Within 60 days of the applicability date of this act, the Mayor shall nominate
89 individuals to serve as the nongovernmental voting members identified in subsection (a)(2) of
90 this section in accordance with section 2(f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3,
91 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(f)).

92 (2)(A) Each nongovernmental voting member of the Coordinating Committee
93 shall serve a term of 4 years; provided, that of the initial appointments, the Mayor shall
94 designate:

95 (i) Four members to serve terms of 4 years;

96 (ii) Three members to serve terms of 3 years; and

97 (iii) Two members to serve terms of 2 years.

98 (B) Terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on
99 the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date
100 for all subsequent appointments.

101 (C) When a vacancy occurs, the Mayor shall appoint a new member in
102 accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

103 (D) Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy of a nongovernmental
104 voting member occurring before the expiration of the predecessor's term shall be appointed only
105 for the remainder of the predecessor's term.

106 (E) Nongovernmental voting members may serve no more than 2
107 consecutive terms; provided, that a member appointed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this
108 paragraph, who served less than one year in the member's initial term, may serve 2 consecutive
109 terms beyond the member's initial term.

110 (F) No individual who has served the maximum number of terms
111 permitted pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this paragraph may be eligible for reappointment.

112 Sec. 5. The Director of the Coordinating Committee.

113 (a)(1) The Director of the Coordinating Committee shall be appointed to the Excepted
114 Service as a statutory officeholder pursuant to section 908 of the District of Columbia
115 Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law
116 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-609.08).

117 (2) The Director shall report to the Mayor.

118 (b) At minimum, the Director shall:

119 (1) Be familiar with the District public education system and member agencies;

120 (2) Have project management experience; and

121 (3) Possess expertise providing guidance and best practices for educating youth
122 involved in the foster care and criminal justice systems.

123 (c) The Mayor is encouraged to consult with the Coordinating Committee on the specific
124 qualifications and job description for this position.

125 (d) The Director shall:

126 (1) Be responsible for and oversee the daily operations of the Coordinating
127 Committee;

128 (2) Supervise Coordinating Committee staff;

129 (3) Recommend and institute internal policies, procedures, and processes for the
130 Coordinating Committee to ensure efficient operations;

131 (4) Lead and coordinate the Coordinating Committee;

132 (5) Provide ongoing technical assistance to members of the Coordinating
133 Committee in carrying out the recommendations in accordance with best practices, local laws,
134 and federal laws;

135 (6) Be responsible for drafting the annual report mandated pursuant to section
136 7(c);

137 (7) Share best practices from around the country and facilitate knowledge sharing
138 with other states and jurisdictions to increase knowledge of best practices and intervention
139 strategies; and

140 (8) Work with executive agencies, community stakeholders, and the Coordinating
141 Committee to create, coordinate, and implement the strategic plan created pursuant to section
142 7(d) to improve educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C.

143 Sec. 6. Operations of the Coordinating Committee.

144 (a) The Coordinating Committee shall vote on internal policies, procedures, and
145 processes for its operation pursuant to section 5(d)(3).

146 (b)(1) The Coordinating Committee shall meet not less than quarterly.

147 (2) All meetings of the Coordinating Committee shall have a quorum of 2/3 of the
148 voting members in order to conduct business.

149 (c)(1) The Coordinating Committee may establish subcommittees as needed.

150 (2) Subcommittees may include persons who are not members of the Coordinating
151 Committee; provided, that each subcommittee shall be chaired by a Coordinating Committee
152 member.

153 (3) No meeting of a subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee shall qualify as
154 a meeting of the Coordinating Committee for purposes of fulfilling the requirements in subsection
155 (b) of this section.

156 Sec. 7. Duties and responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee.

157 (a) The Coordinating Committee shall provide leadership in the development of strategies
158 and policies that guide the implementation of the District's policies and programs to improve
159 educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C.

160 (b) To accomplish the goals of subsection (a) of this section, the Coordinating Committee
161 shall:

162 (1) Assess current efforts in place to educate students in the care of D.C.;

163 (2) Cooperate with and support members in fully implementing all relevant
164 agreements and memorandum of understanding;

165 (3) Review existing data collection and sharing efforts within and across agencies
166 and make recommendations regarding the exchange and sharing of data for students in the care
167 of D.C.; provided, that all such recommendations comply with local and federal law;

168 (4) Establish an effective system for monitoring the progress of general education
169 and special education for students in the care of D.C.;

170 (5) Determine educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C., build
171 capacity to track and measure outcomes, and implement strategies in accordance with the
172 strategic plan created pursuant to subsection (d) of this section;

173 (6) Foster collaborative relationships with agency counterparts in Maryland and
174 Virginia for students in the care of D.C. who are placed outside of the District; and

175 (7) Make recommendations concerning the coordination of the activities,
176 implementation of practices, strategies, or programs, and the mobilization of the resources of
177 member agencies to improve educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C.

178 (c)(1) The Coordinating Committee shall report, within 24 months following the
179 applicability date of this act, and on an annual basis thereafter, on the status and progress of each
180 member agency on fulfilling the goal in subsection (a) of this section and the strategic plan
181 referenced in subsection (d) of this section.

182 (2) The Coordinating Committee shall transmit a publicly-available report to the
183 Mayor and the Council.

184 (d) Within 12 months after the applicability of this act, and every 4 years thereafter, the
185 Coordinating Committee shall draft and approve a strategic plan that encourages interagency and
186 community coordination and improves educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C. At
187 minimum, the plan required by this subsection shall:

188 (1) Clearly articulate a vision statement for students in the care of D.C.;

189 (2) State the goals and operational priorities of member agencies for improving
190 educational outcomes for students in the care of D.C.;

191 (3) Include a District-wide needs assessment that takes into account existing data;

192 (4) Establish a timeline for implementing the strategic plan;

193 (5) Include an analysis of strategies that have been successful in improving
194 educational outcomes for students in custody of the government;

195 (6) Be developed pursuant to a process that will identify, prioritize, and target
196 needs for services for students in the care of D.C.;

197 (7) Provide estimates of the costs of carrying out various components of the plan;
198 and

199 (8) Recommend policy and legislative changes, if needed, to improve educational
200 outcomes for students in the care of D.C.

201 Sec 8. Conforming Amendments.

202 (a) Section 2(f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-
203 142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(f)), is amended as follows:

204 (1) Paragraph (64) is amended by striking phrase “; and” and inserting a
205 semicolon in its place.

206 (2) Paragraph (65) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the
207 phrase “; and” in its place.

208 (3) A new paragraph (66) is added to read as follows:

209 “(66) The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee established
210 pursuant to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, as approved
211 by the Committee on Education on November 14, 2018 (Committee print of Bill 22-0950).”.

212 (b) Section 908 of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel
213 Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-609.08), is
214 amended as follows:

215 (1) Paragraph (16) is amended by striking the phrase “; and” and inserting a
216 semicolon in its place.

217 (2) Paragraph (17) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase “;
218 and” in its place.

219 (3) A new paragraph (18) is added to read as follows:

220 “(18) Director of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.”.

221 Sec. 9. Applicability.

222 (a) This act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved
223 budget and financial plan.

224 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in
225 an approved budget and financial plan and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council
226 of the certification.

227 (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in
228 the District of Columbia Register.

229 (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the
230 applicability of this act.

231 Sec. 10. Fiscal impact statement.

232 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
233 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
234 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

235 Sec. 11. Effective date.

236 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
237 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
238 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
239 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
240 Columbia Register.