

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 679  
Judiciary

(Delegate Walker)

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Juvenile Services - Group Homes and Institutions - Notice Requirement

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This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), before contracting for or authorizing the creation of a group home or an institution operated by a nonprofit or for-profit entity, to send a specified notice to the local law enforcement agency.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** DJS can handle the bill's requirements using existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** DJS must send, by certified mail, notification of its intent to establish a facility to the head of the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction over the political subdivision in which the facility is located. The notification must include (1) the need for the group home or institution; (2) the name and address of the operator of the group home or institution; (3) the street address or an identifying description of the property where the group home or institution is to be located; (4) if the operator does not own the property, the name of the owner; (5) the characteristics of the population to be served and the number of residents to be served; and (6) any other information relevant to the operation of the group home or institution.

**Current Law:** DJS may place children in group homes and institutions operated by nonprofit or for-profit entities to provide for their care, diagnosis, training, education, and rehabilitation. DJS must reimburse the entities described for the cost of the services at appropriate monthly rates that DJS determines, as provided in the State budget. A child may not be placed in a group home or other residential facility that is not operated in compliance with applicable State licensing laws.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; Town of Bel Air; Town of Leonardtown; City of Salisbury; Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2013  
mc/kdm

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