

SENATE BILL 842

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By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for**
3 **Female Youth in Contact With the Justice System**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and
5 Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System; providing
6 for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of
7 the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to study and make
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Workgroup to submit a
10 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
11 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup to
12 Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in
13 Contact with the Justice System.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That:

16 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available
17 Resources for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System.

18 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

19 (1) the member of the Senate of Maryland representing District 24;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates representing District 24,
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

22 (3) the State's Attorney for Prince George's County, or the State's
23 Attorney's designee;

24 (4) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the following members, designated by the Secretary of Health:

2 (i) one juvenile mental health expert;

3 (ii) one juvenile behavioral health expert;

4 (iii) one child welfare expert; and

5 (iv) one managed care expert;

6 (6) the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools,
7 or the Officer's designee;

8 (7) the following members, designated by the Chief Executive Officer of
9 Prince George's County Public Schools:

10 (i) one parent of a child in public primary school; and

11 (ii) one parent of a child in public secondary school;

12 (8) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee; and

13 (9) the following members, designated by the Secretary of Juvenile
14 Services:

15 (i) one juvenile resource expert;

16 (ii) one representative from a placement facility for female youth;

17 (iii) one representative from a treatment program for female youth;

18 and

19 (iv) one representative from the Department of Juvenile Services'
20 Prince George's County office.

21 (c) The Workgroup shall elect the Chair of the Workgroup by a majority vote at
22 the first meeting.

23 (d) The Department of Juvenile Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

24 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

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

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

1 (f) The Workgroup shall review:

2 (1) the policies and procedures of the Department of Juvenile Services in
3 responding to the needs of female youth within the justice system;

4 (2) the existing programs, treatment capabilities, and placement facilities
5 for females committed to the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services;

6 (3) the proposed response by the Department of Juvenile Services to female
7 needs within the next 5 years;

8 (4) statewide data on females under the age of 18 charged with a
9 delinquent act, the percentage of recidivism for those females, and the nature of the
10 delinquent charges;

11 (5) the female youths' response and level of participation in the assigned
12 programs, treatment, and placement;

13 (6) the past, current, and proposed response of the Department of Juvenile
14 Services to the increase of female youth participating in violent delinquent acts;

15 (7) the resources available to the Department of Juvenile Services to
16 respond to the needs of female youth;

17 (8) the Department of Juvenile Services' standards of review and methods
18 of analysis of the needs of female youth; and

19 (9) the Department of Juvenile Services' tools for the evaluation and
20 diagnosis of female youth.

21 (g) On or before December 1, 2021, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its
22 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
23 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
25 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
26 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
27 abrogated and of no further force and effect.