

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 96 - L.D. 155

An Act Regarding Community-based Services for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 450, §7, is amended to read:

9. Program implementation and oversight. Initiate, implement and oversee programs, policies and services consistent with the purposes of this chapter; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 450, §7, is amended to read:

10. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council. Oversee the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council, established under section 24051, and direct a representative of the cabinet to meet at least once yearly with the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council and consult with one or more state-designated groups representing youth issues regarding goals selected by the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Coordination across state agencies. Establish a working group that includes the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to promote coordinated policies, finances, programs and service delivery systems to support juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The working group shall conduct a review of other states in regard to best practices and organizational structures for juvenile justice services.

Sec. 4. 34-A MRSA §7009 is enacted to read:

§7009. Publication of data

By February 15, 2024, the department shall develop and publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation, ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department shall deidentify the data

and remove any potential personal identifying information of the juveniles. The data must be organized by region of the State and broken down by age, gender and race.

Sec. 5. 34-A MRSA §7010 is enacted to read:

§7010. Reports regarding juvenile justice system

1. Annual report regarding reducing detention rates and expanding community-based alternatives. By February 15th of each year, the department shall provide an annual report in person to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters. The report must include detailed information regarding:

A. The efforts of the department and the Department of Health and Human Services to offer diversion options for juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system and to reduce the rates of detention and commitment of youths across the State;

B. The successes and challenges of the department and the Department of Health and Human Services in expanding access to community-based therapeutic services or programs for the purpose of diverting juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system from detention and commitment;

C. A summary of the Long Creek Youth Development Center, including, but not limited to, the number of staff as of the December 1 preceding the report, staffing levels and the challenges at the facility;

D. The strategic plan developed by the department and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections in consultation with the task force established by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group;

E. The specific juvenile-focused community-based programs and services receiving funding from the department, including the amount of funding received by the community-based organizations providing the programs and services;

F. The successes and challenges of the department in expanding juvenile-focused community-based programs and services; and

G. Any other information the department determines is relevant to the report.

2. Annual report regarding possible locations for secure, therapeutic residences for detained and committed youths. By January 1st of each year, the department shall provide an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on the status of the identification and development of 2 small, secure, therapeutic residences for youths for the purpose of providing detention and confinement for committed youths in a therapeutic setting. These 2 residences shall provide for a maximum occupancy of 20 youths. The report must include rationale for the consideration of each identified residence, as well as an estimate on the number of youths that will be served at the residence, an estimate of the cost for construction and operation of the residence and staffing options for providing services at the residence to youths living at the residence, including therapeutic programs and educational services.

Sec. 6. PL 2021, c. 398, §KKKK-4 is repealed.

Sec. 7. PL 2021, c. 398, §KKKK-5 is repealed.