

# SENATE BILL 769

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CF HB 1004

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By: **Senator Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Juvenile Services – Juvenile Strategic Reentry Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Juvenile Services to establish the Juvenile  
4 Strategic Reentry Program for children committed to the custody or under the  
5 guardianship of the Department of Juvenile Services; establishing the purpose of the  
6 Program; requiring the Department to direct reentry specialists to oversee the return  
7 of certain children to the community; requiring a reentry specialist to meet with a  
8 child a certain number of days before the release of the child from an out-of-home  
9 placement; requiring a reentry specialist to review certain items during a certain  
10 meeting; requiring the reentry specialist to invite the family of the child to attend  
11 and participate in the reentry planning process; requiring the reentry specialist to  
12 meet with the child and the family of the child after the child has been released from  
13 commitment and has been in the community for a certain number of days; requiring,  
14 after a certain initial meeting, the reentry specialist to meet with the child in  
15 intervals of a certain number of days for a certain period of time; requiring a reentry  
16 specialist to report quarterly to the Department on the progress of the child;  
17 authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to  
18 the Juvenile Strategic Reentry Program and the Department of Juvenile Services.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Human Services

21 Section 9–247

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Human Services**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 9-247.

2 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH THE JUVENILE STRATEGIC  
3 REENTRY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OR UNDER THE  
4 GUARDIANSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM BY:

6 (1) PROVIDING SUPERVISION TO EACH CHILD WHO IS RETURNING  
7 HOME FROM COMMITTED CARE;

8 (2) ENGAGING THE FAMILY OF THE CHILD AT ALL KEY CASE  
9 PLANNING DECISION POINTS;

10 (3) CONNECTING THE CHILD TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL EDUCATION  
11 RESOURCES;

12 (4) CONNECTING THE CHILD TO LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND  
13 RESOURCES; AND

14 (5) IF THE CHILD IS IN NEED OF BEHAVIORAL OR SOMATIC HEALTH  
15 SERVICES, CONNECTING THE CHILD TO LOCAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE  
16 CONTINUITY OF CARE.

17 (C) (1) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, THE  
18 DEPARTMENT SHALL DIRECT REENTRY SPECIALISTS TO OVERSEE THE RETURN OF  
19 CHILDREN DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

20 (2) (I) A REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL MEET WITH A CHILD 45 DAYS  
21 BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE CHILD FROM AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT.

22 (II) DURING THE MEETING, THE REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL  
23 REVIEW THE HOUSING PLAN, EDUCATION AND OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS, ONGOING  
24 BEHAVIORAL OR SOMATIC HEALTH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS, AND FAMILY  
25 RELATIONSHIPS OF THE CHILD.

26 (III) THE REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL INVITE THE FAMILY OF  
27 THE CHILD TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE REENTRY PLANNING PROCESS.

28 (3) AFTER THE CHILD IS RELEASED FROM COMMITMENT AND HAS  
29 BEEN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR 30 DAYS, THE REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL MEET  
30 WITH THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY OF THE CHILD TO ASSESS WHETHER THE CHILD  
31 HAS ACCESSED ALL NEEDED SERVICES, HAS SUCCESSFULLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL,  
32 AND HAS REMAINED IN STABLE AND SUITABLE HOUSING.

1           **(4) FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH**  
2 **(3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL MEET WITH THE CHILD**  
3 **EVERY 30 DAYS TO REVIEW WHETHER THE CHILD HAS ACCESSED ALL NEEDED**  
4 **SERVICES, HAS SUCCESSFULLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, AND HAS REMAINED IN**  
5 **STABLE AND SUITABLE HOUSING UNTIL THE CHILD REACHES THE AGE OF 18 YEARS**  
6 **OR IS RELEASED FROM THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHICHEVER**  
7 **OCCURS FIRST.**

8           **(D) A REENTRY SPECIALIST SHALL REPORT QUARTERLY TO THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE PROGRESS OF THE CHILD.**

10           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**  
11 **SECTION.**

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2020.