

Juvenile Justice Reform Council Overview

The Juvenile Justice Reform Council was originally created by Chapters 252 and 253 of 2019. The council is required to use a data-driven approach to develop a statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of youth offenders. The council is charged with (1) convening and working with an advisory stakeholder group to conduct roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State; (2) researching best practices for the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; (3) identifying and making recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and (4) requesting technical assistance from specified entities, including the Council of State Governments. In January 2021, the council issued its final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

Chapter 596 of 2021 extended the work of the council and required the council to submit a supplemental report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before October 1, 2021.