

HB 908 -- YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Curtis

This bill requires the Division of Youth Services within the Department of Social Services to collaborate and share information and provide technical assistance to municipal and juvenile courts in utilizing available community resources and programs for placement of youth status offenders and law violators. The programs must include:

- (1) Mental health counseling services;
- (2) Drug counseling services;
- (3) Community service options, including opportunities for youth to earn moneys while performing community service to pay any fines or restitution;
- (4) Educational and learning evaluations and resources; and
- (5) Services and activities designed to address the factors contributing to youth status offenses and law violations in a community by providing early intervention services and resources for youth offenders.

A municipal or juvenile court is authorized to request assistance from the division. The division must provide assistance to the municipal or juvenile court in identifying programs and resources available in the community and sharing information on effective programs and resources based on the division's experience with the incentive subsidy program.

The division is required to create an annual report and submit it to the General Assembly. The report must contain community intervention resources and program opportunities, use and participation rates of community intervention programs, and the recidivism rate of juveniles who participated in community intervention programs.