

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 524

(Senator M. Washington)(By Request - Baltimore City  
Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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**Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office**

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This bill authorizes access to and confidential use of a juvenile police record and court record by specified offices within the Baltimore City Mayor's Office under specified circumstances. Prior to accessing and using a record, the office must enter into a written memorandum of understanding and obtain consent of the child's parent or guardian, as specified. A Baltimore City Mayor's office authorized to access these records under the bill must be liable for the unauthorized release of a record it accesses. **The bill terminates on September 30, 2031.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill authorizes only the following offices in the Baltimore City Mayor's Office to access the confidential use of juvenile police and court records: (1) Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; (2) Office of Children and Family Success; and (3) Office of African American Male Engagement.

*Police Records:* In order to access a juvenile police record, the office must be providing programs and services to a child who is the subject of the record, and the use of the record

must be for a purpose relevant to the provision of the programs and services and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan.

Prior to access to and confidential use of a police record, the office must (1) enter into a written memorandum with the agency disclosing the record and (2) obtain express written consent in a single document from the parent or guardian of the child who is the subject of the record.

*Court Records:* For access to juvenile court records, the office must be providing programs and services in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to the child who is the subject of the record, and the use of the record must be for purposes directly related to supporting treatment, rehabilitation, reentry planning, or continuity of care.

Prior to access to and confidential use of a court record, the office must enter into a written memorandum of understanding with DJS that (1) identifies the specific records to be shared; (2) defines the purpose and necessity of the disclosure; (3) limits the use of the records to the purposes described above; (4) prohibits redisclosure of the records to any other person; and (5) requires compliance with applicable State and federal confidentiality laws. The office must also obtain express written consent in a single document from the parent or guardian of the child who is the subject of the record.

**Current Law:** In general, police and court records concerning a child are confidential, and their contents may not be divulged, by subpoena or otherwise, except by court order upon a showing of good cause or in certain circumstances relating to notification of a local superintendent or nonpublic school principal upon the arrest of a child for specified offenses. This prohibition does not restrict access to and the use of court records in court proceedings involving the child by personnel of the court, the State's Attorney, counsel for the child, a court-appointed special advocate for the child, or authorized DJS personnel. Subject to certain exceptions, the restriction also does not prohibit access to and confidential use of police and court records of a child by DJS or in an investigation and prosecution by a law enforcement agency.

Additional exceptions are specified in statute, including access to a court record by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or a local health department if MDH or the local department is providing treatment, services, or care in coordination with DJS to a child who is the subject of the record, for a purpose relevant to the provision of the treatment, services, or care. MDH and the local departments must keep an obtained court record confidential in accordance with the laws and policies applicable to MDH and the local departments.

## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1145 (Delegate Lewis)(By Request - Baltimore City Administration) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2026  
jg/aad Third Reader - April 1, 2026  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 1, 2026

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