

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

59th Assembly District



AB 1007 – Promoting Reinvestment and Oversight Measures for Individual Success and Empowerment (P.R.O.M.I.S.E.) Act

SUMMARY

AB 1007 improves the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act by ensuring adequate oversight, equitable decision-making, and effective investments prioritizing our communities' most critical needs.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was enacted to support youth locally and limit involvement in the justice system through collaborative efforts. For twenty years, county spending has fallen short of the bill's original goals. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19, the state spent nearly \$160 million through the non-competitive JJCPA grant without adequate oversight or accountability.

The California State Auditor released a report in May 2020 verifying long-held concerns about poor JJCPA spending, decision-making, and reporting. In its review of a diverse sample of counties, the audit finds that counties' outdated spending plans have failed to address youths' needs and their reports do not demonstrate program effectiveness. In FY 2017-18, four of the five counties spent over 75 percent of their JJCPA funds on probation departments despite massive declines in youth contact with probation.

Since 2000, youth arrests have declined by over 80 percent, leaving far more youth whose needs can only be met in the community. However, most counties spend little to none of their allotted JJCPA funds on community-based organizations (CBOs). Some JJCPA-funded programs, such as harmful 'voluntary probation' programs that place youth who have never been involved with the justice system under probation supervision, even have a net-widening effect and negatively impact youth participants.

While each county is required to make JJCPA funding decisions through a Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the audit found that counties left mandatory stakeholder seats vacant. 20 percent of all California counties lacked a JJCC entirely during the audit review period.

Organizations that provide services for youth in marginalized communities have been hard hit financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. AB 1007 ensures stable funding for these critical services run by schools, public health agencies, and CBOs to support at-risk and justice-involved youth.

THIS BILL

AB 1007 addresses chronic shortcomings of JJCPA grant implementation and serves as a stimulus for the public health, education, and CBO sectors. This legislation will:

- Reform JJCC requirements to ensure equitable (at least 50 percent) community representation in improved decision-making processes.
- Require counties to distribute at least 95 percent of allotted JJCPA funds to CBOs and/or public agencies that are non-law enforcement agencies.
- Strengthen county reporting and evaluation processes by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to include critical evidence on youth served and program effectiveness.

SPONSORS

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
American Civil Liberties Union – California
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Children's Defense Fund – California
MILPA Collective
Urban Peace Institute
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Youth Justice Coalition - Los Angeles

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