HB 258

DISAGGREGATED DATA

Background
We need to close all disparities especially for children and youth who are in foster care. The only way to do so is to have access to timely disaggregated data by county, age, gender, race, and ethnicity to track areas of improvement and target interventions in all environments where children, youth and young adults are present. Currently, the Department of Human Services (DHS) releases monthly and annual data reports on young people in the child welfare system. However, there is data that could be provided by other state agencies to make DHS reporting more comprehensive to help identify disparities and determine areas of collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for young people in the State’s care.

Solution
To start, require the Maryland State Department of Education to provide DHS with disaggregated data on the educational outcomes for young people in foster care to allow for a collaborative inter-agency response. In addition, the bill will:

- Allow advocates and the general public to have well-publicized, easily accessible, and transparent data indicating the outcomes and experiences of the children involved in the child welfare system
- Engender a high level of confidence in both the child welfare and the education systems

Impact
As of January 1, 2019, there were 4,539 youth in out-of-home foster care placements. The data collected will be used to identify the scope of the problems faced by youth in foster care and to advocate for targeted interventions to improve their education and health outcomes as well as their placement stability.

Collaborating Partners
Maryland State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect