

# Implementation Strategy Report

(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

**March 1, 2019**

**Sec. 537.** (1) *The department, in collaboration with child placing agencies, shall develop a strategy to implement section 115o of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.115o. The strategy shall include a requirement that a department caseworker responsible for preparing a recommendation to a court concerning a juvenile placement shall provide, as part of the recommendation, information regarding the requirements of section 115o of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.115o.*

**(2) *By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the strategy described in subsection (1).***



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A strategy was developed and has been in effect since the implementation of MCL 400.115o that incorporates standardized language on every juvenile justice service plan as part of the worker's recommendations to the court. The standardized language states:

*“Section 115o of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.115o requires that, unless specialized treatment is available in another state that is not available in Michigan, if an excess of bed space is available within a security level for residential placement, the department must use the bed spaces of a private, contracted provider.”*

In order to assist caseworkers in making recommendations to the court related to placement of juvenile justice youth, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' juvenile justice program office has implemented the Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System, a criminogenic risk assessment system to determine security level, and the Juvenile Justice Assignment Unit, which provides guidance to caseworkers identifying contracted residential services available and bed vacancies.