

Decision Document

**House Appropriations Committee
Education and Economic Development Subcommittee
2024 Session**

D17B0151
Historic St Mary’s City Commission

DLS Recommended Actions

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Reject.

Audit Recommendations Implementation Report: The committees are concerned about the recommendations made in an external audit of the Historic St. Mary’s City Commission (HSMCC). The committees request a report, to be submitted by September 1, 2024, detailing the progress toward full implementation of all recommendations made in the audit report, including examples of how each recommendation has been implemented.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audit recommendations implementation report	HSMCC	September 1, 2024

D17B01.51
Historic St Mary’s City Commission

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Adopt.

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may not be expended until the Historic St. Mary’s City Commission submits a report detailing the progress toward full implementation of all recommendations made in the external audit report submitted to the budget committees in March 2023, including examples of how each recommendation has been implemented, and a timeline for implementing all recommendations. The report shall be submitted by September 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The Historic St. Mary’s City Commission (HSMCC) submitted the results of an external audit in March 2023. The audit made several recommendations for changes to HSMCC’s operations. This language restricts funds from HSMCC until the agency submits a report detailing the progress toward full implementation of all recommendations and examples of how each recommendation is being implemented, as well as a timeline for implementing all recommendations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audit recommendations implementation report	HSMCC	September 1, 2024

D25
Interagency Commission on School Construction

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur.	Reject.	

D25
Interagency Commission on School Construction

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Adopt.

, provided that it is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly that local education agencies use a portion of the funding appropriated for the School Safety Grant Program for the purpose of studying and procuring potential artificial intelligence technologies that identify guns in and around school property.

Explanation: This language expresses the intent of the Maryland General Assembly that local education agencies investigate and procure potential artificial intelligence technologies that identify guns in and around school property.

D28A03
Maryland Stadium Authority

DLS Recommended Actions

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur.

Adopt.

D91
West North Avenue Development Authority

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$2,500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Grants to Non-Governmental Entities may not be expended until the West North Avenue Development Authority submits a report to the budget committees with the completed comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan and grants manual. The comprehensive plan and grants manual shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the comprehensive plan and grants manual are not submitted to the budget committees.

Disagree. The Authority disagrees with the DLS recommendation to hold \$2.5 million in grants to nongovernmental entities because the agency has not submitted its comprehensive plan. The West North Avenue Comprehensive Plan was submitted to the General Assembly on January 31, 2024.

Modify, see below.

Explanation: Chapters 80 and 81 of 2021 as amended by Chapter 136 of 2023 required West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) to submit a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan, including any procurement activities undertaken by the Authority, by December 15, 2023. This plan has not yet been submitted. The 2023 Joint Chairmen’s Report requested WNADA submit a grants manual. This manual was due on December 29, 2023, but has not yet been submitted. This language restricts \$2.5 million pending the submission of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan, as required by legislation establishing WNADA, and a grants manual to provide a simple and transparent review process.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan and grants manual	WNADA	October 1, 2024

D91
West North Avenue Development Authority

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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First House Modification

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Adopt.

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Grants to Non-Governmental Entities may not be expended until the West North Avenue Development Authority submits a report to the budget committees with the completed comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan and grants manual. The comprehensive plan and grants manual shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the comprehensive plan and grants manual are not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Chapters 80 and 81 of 2021 as amended by Chapter 136 of 2023 required West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) to submit a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan, including any procurement activities undertaken by the Authority, by December 15, 2023. This plan has not yet been submitted. The 2023 Joint Chairmen’s Report requested WNADA submit a grants manual. This manual was due on December 29, 2023, but has not yet been submitted. This language restricts \$250,000 pending the submission of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan, as required by legislation establishing WNADA, and a grants manual to provide a simple and transparent review process.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan and grants manual	WNADA	October 1, 2024

D91
West North Avenue Development Authority

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
2. Reduce funding for grants to nongovernmental entities. The fiscal 2025 allowance includes a \$5 million increase in funding for grants to nongovernmental entities. West North Avenue Development Authority has not yet completed its first full fiscal year as a State agency or its first round of grant awards, and it has not yet submitted a grants manual to provide a transparent process for awarding grant funding. Additionally, fiscal 2025 is a challenging budget year for the State.	-\$ 2,500,000 GF		The Authority disagrees with the DLS recommendation to reduce \$2.5 million because the agency has not submitted a grants manual. The Authority has established interim grant procedures that continue to evolve since September 2023. We expect a finalized grant procedure process to be established by June 30, 2024, after we have assessed lessons learned from completing our first round of granting by April 2024.	Reject.	

E75D
State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur.	Reject.	

E75D
State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Adopt the following narrative:				Adopt.	
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Monthly Reporting on Sports Wagering: The committees are interested in understanding the implementation of sports wagering within the State. The committees request that the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency include in the agency’s published monthly reports for sports wagering additional information on the major types of bets being placed including promotional play spending, parlays, the total handle, the hold, as well as the type of sport(s) events being wagered on. The first of these reports should be published by July 5, 2024, with subsequent reports published monthly thereafter on the fifth of each month.

2. Adopt the following narrative:				Adopt.	
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Report on Problem Gambling: The committees are interested in understanding the State’s activities and funding related to the prevention and treatment of problem gambling. The committees request that the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA), the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a joint report on the programs and strategies each employs to address problem gambling. The report shall be submitted by December 11, 2024, and include data on:

- the estimated number of people impacted by problem gambling;
- efforts to address problem gambling by MLGCA, including efforts by the gaming facilities, specifically addressing voluntary exclusion programs and any other policies or programs;
- the number of individuals participating in voluntary exclusion programs;
- the number of individuals participating in any other programs to address problem gambling offered by MLGCA or gaming facilities;

E75D
State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the programs offered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling; • the locations and number of people served by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling; • the active public awareness campaigns administered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling; • any other programs or activities supported by MDH to address problem gambling; and • the amount of actual expenditures dedicated to addressing problem gambling, separately by source of funding and activity, provided through MDH and MLGCA, including funding for the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, in fiscal 2023 and 2024 and funding available in fiscal 2025. 					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on problem gambling	MLGCA Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling MDH	December 11, 2024

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Delete \$2.0 million in funding for the newly proposed Talent Innovation Program as well as \$2.0 million in increased funding for the Employment Advancement Right Now program.	-\$ 4,000,000	GF	Disagree. Both the programs play crucial roles in meeting the needs of our key industries and expanding worker access to higher-wage employment.	Reject.	
2. Delete funding for the Electronic Licensing Modernization project. These funds were included in the allowance in error.	-\$ 2,793,000	SF	Concur.	Adopt.	

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

Additional First House Actions

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1. Adopt the following narrative:

Adopt.

Study on Advancing Skills-based Hiring: The budget committees request that the Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), conduct a study on advancing skills-driven education and training, hiring, and internal advancement practices across public and private sector employers. The study should include analysis of:

- industries in the State employing the lowest and highest number of individuals with high school diplomas and degrees from institutions of higher education;
- which of these industries require an individual to indicate possession of a high school diploma or degree from an institution of higher education as part of the hiring process;
- the extent to which individuals use the education or training that their high school diplomas or degrees from institutions of higher education provide as it relates to their employment;
- the number of newly created jobs each year in the State for the last three years that require a high school diploma or degree from an institution of higher education or for which such a diploma or degree is required by rules of professional licensing;
- the number of individuals without a high school diploma or degree from an institution of higher education in the State;
- recommendations for methods to promote skills-based hiring, education, and training practices in the State.

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

Additional First House Actions

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Study on advancing skills-based hiring	GWDB and MDL	December 1, 2024

2. Adopt the following narrative: Adopt.

Prison to Honest Jobs Workgroup: The committees direct the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to establish a workgroup on Prison to Honest Jobs to study current incarcerated individual education, job training, and in-prison job and reentry programs and make recommendations to maximize the number of incarcerated individuals who are prepared to be employed immediately upon release. The workgroup should include representatives from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association, the Department of Natural Resources, and up to four senators and four delegates. The workgroup should also consult with relevant stakeholders, including businesses that are current or potential employers of formerly incarcerated employees of Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE); experts in reentry and employment; nonprofit and community-based workforce providers, trainers, and advocates; and labor unions and trade associations.

The workgroup should submit an interim report on its progress to the budget committees by December 1, 2024. The interim report should also include an overview of:

- current job training and education programs, along with the numbers and profiles of incarcerated individuals participating in each;
- the number and profiles of incarcerated individuals who have jobs while in prison with MCE and others;
- the number of incarcerated individuals who gain employment immediately

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Maryland Department of Labor

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upon release; and

- opportunities to scale up MCE and other job opportunities while incarcerated.

The workgroup should also submit recommendations by December 1, 2025. The recommendations should propose strategies to maximize the number of incarcerated individuals with jobs on release. Strategies should include:

- for the Division of Correction to develop an individualized plan for each incarcerated individual to prepare that individual for success on release;
- education for incarcerated individuals to include basic math, reading, and computer skills, as well as rigorous aptitude and attitude assessments and job skill training;
- encouraging potential employers and apprenticeship programs to actively recruit and employ incarcerated individuals; and
- encouraging incarcerated individuals to participate in a work release program, including work release for an apprenticeship program or incarcerated individual labor in MCE.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Prison to Honest Jobs Workgroup interim report

MDL, in consultation with DPSCS

December 1, 2024

Incarcerated individual career and training program plan

MDL, in consultation with DPSCS

December 1, 2025

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

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1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Report on Accounting Practices: Due to ongoing concerns about accounting practices, the committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a closeout report by October 1, 2024. This report should include an explanation for encumbrances and reversions for all general, special, federal, and reimbursable funds for any amount that does not equal zero.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on accounting practices	MSDE	October 1, 2024

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Report on State Education Agency Federal Stimulus Funds: Due to school closures prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) received approximately \$303.0 million in State Education Agency (SEA) federal stimulus funds. To ensure proper monitoring of the use of these funds, the committees request that MSDE report by November 1, 2024, on all SEA program expenditures distributed as part of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This report should include:

- grant expenditures by school and program for State-mandated funds allocated to the Maryland School for the Blind, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and the School for Educational Evolution and Development;
- grant procedures, allocations, and expenditures by program for all discretionary allocations;
- expenditures by MSDE department and object for administrative costs; and

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MSDE Headquarters

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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- unexpended funds by program, reasons that funds were not allocated or expended, anticipated expenditures of those funds by program for future years, and funds that may have been canceled.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on SEA ESSER funds	MSDE	November 1, 2024

3. Adopt the following narrative: Concur. Adopt.

Report on the Maryland Leads Program: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 requires State agencies to spend a designated percentage of elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds to address learning loss. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) applied these funds to a new noncompetitive grant program for local education agencies (LEA), Maryland Leads. However, analysis of this program indicates potential issues with how funding was distributed and whether the program will directly impact student learning loss. To ensure proper oversight of this program and funding, the committees request that MSDE report by December 1, 2024, on the Maryland Leads program. The report should include the following information:

- a summary of progress on Maryland Leads objectives to date;
- LEA implementation plans by Maryland Leads subprogram;
- expenditures by LEA and subprogram for fiscal 2023 and 2024, including expenditures on personnel;
- summative assessments or outcome measures, by LEA and program, implemented to remediate student learning loss;
- documentation of improvements in literacy and math proficiency, by LEA, grade, and subprogram, as the result of Maryland Leads initiatives; and

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MSDE Headquarters

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- a plan and timeline to share updates on Maryland Leads implementation and outcomes with the public, either on the MSDE website, LEA websites, or by other means.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Maryland Leads	MSDE	December 1, 2024

4. Reduce general funds to the Maryland Center for School Safety for the School Resource Officer grant program by \$3.0 million. This reduction will be backfilled with special funds from the Safe School Fund balance. -\$ 3,000,000 GF Disagree, the agency would like full funding of the SRO grant. Adopt.

5. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation: Disagree, the agency would like full funding of the SRO grant so that they can spend SF funds on the new emergency preparedness grant. Adopt.

\$3,000,000 in special funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A06.02 Maryland Center for School Safety – Grants within the Maryland Center for School Safety budget for the purpose of funding the School Resource Officer grant program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the Safe Schools Fund.

Explanation: This language adds \$3.0 million in special funds to the appropriation for the School Resource Officer grant in the Maryland Center for School Safety budget.

6. Reduces special funds for the new Emergency Preparedness grant in the Maryland Center for School Safety. Local education agencies can fund emergency preparedness planning within their operating budgets. -\$ 3,000,000 SF Disagree, the agency would like full funding of the emergency preparedness grant. Adopt.

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MSDE – Headquarters

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Adopt the following narrative: Adopt.

Information on Type I Diabetes: The budget committees are concerned about access to informational material for parents and guardians regarding Type I diabetes in children provided by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), both in printed material and on the department’s website. The budget committees request that MSDE, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), provide materials on Type I diabetes to each local education agency, county board of education, charter school, as well as post relevant materials on MSDE’s website. This information should be provided and posted no later than January 1, 2025, and include, at a minimum:

- a description of Type I diabetes; risk factors; and stages;
- screening opportunities for children displaying warning signs of this disease and a description of screening processes and test result implications; and
- recommendations on follow-up care with medical professionals upon identification and diagnosis.

Additionally, a report containing copies of the printed material and information on the process for developing and distributing the material should be submitted to the budget committees no later than January 15, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Information on Type I diabetes	MSDE MDH	January 15, 2025

R00A01
MSDE – Headquarters

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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2. Adopt the following narrative:

Adopt.

Workgroup on Noncertificated Education Support Professionals: The budget committees are concerned about pay equity for noncertificated education support professionals who are employed by local education agencies (LEA). Chapters 531 and 532 of 2022 Education Support Professionals – Bonus and Report required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to collect and report data on the number of noncertificated education support professionals by LEA and distribute bonuses based on this count. The budget committees request that MSDE, along with other relevant stakeholders, form a workgroup to study pay equity for noncertificated education support professionals. By December 1, 2024, this workgroup should investigate and report to the budget committees on pay equity for noncertificated education support professionals, including, but not limited to: profession; LEA; years of employment; experience; qualifications; certifications; and any other aspect of pay equity identified by stakeholders relevant to this request.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on education support professional pay equity	MSDE	December 1, 2024

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Add the following language:</p> <p><u>, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of the State Superintendent may not be expended until the agency submits to the budget committees by August 1, 2024, a report on the agency’s enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students for fiscal 2025 (2024-2025 school year) and an accompanying dataset. This report and dataset should include the following enrollment data by local education agency (LEA) and school:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>the number of eligible students (eligible enrollment);</u></p> <p>(2) <u>the number of free, reduced-price, and paid meal students;</u></p> <p>(3) <u>the number of direct certification students, including counts of students in all eligible categories, including students eligible for Medicaid benefits between 185% and 189% of the federal poverty level;</u></p> <p>(4) <u>Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enrollment, including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and</u></p> <p>(5) <u>greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.</u></p> <p><u>The report should also include:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>procedures used by LEAs to collect and review enrollment data to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to MSDE;</u></p> <p>(2) <u>procedures used by MSDE to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to the Department of Legislative Services</u></p>			<p>Concur in part, the agency concurs on the report but disagrees on the fund restriction.</p>	<p>Adopt.</p>	

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MSDE – Aid to Education

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and the Department of Budget and Management to determine education State aid funding;

(3) procedures used by MSDE’s Audit Office to audit these data biannually; and

(4) if applicable, a description of changes to MSDE’s enrollment collection procedures for fiscal 2026.

The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: MSDE is responsible for accurate counts of FRPM students to determine student eligibility for FRPM benefits as well as funding of the compensatory education and concentration of poverty grant programs. Due to issues involving enrollment counts in recent audits and submitted fiscal 2025 data, this language directs MSDE to submit a report regarding actions the agency is taking to resolve these findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on FRPM enrollment	MSDE	August 1, 2024

2. Add the following language:

Concur.

Reject.

, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of education State aid for the Somerset County Public Schools in the Aid to Education budget may not be expended until the agency submits two reports by July 1, 2024, to the Department of Legislative Services and the Accountability and Implementation Board in accordance with requirements in Chapter 55 of 2021, HB 1372, Chapter 55(3(c)) of 2021 (MSAR # 13771), Use of Federal COVID-19 Funding and State Funding for

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MSDE – Aid to Education

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Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Funding, and HB 1372, Chapter 55(4(d)) of 2021 (MSAR # 13527), Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Revisions, Tutoring.

The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the reports to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of reports may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Chapter 55 of 2021 required local education agencies to submit three reports in calendar 2022 and 2023 (a total of six reports) on tutoring and transitional supplemental instruction, summer school, and COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures. Due to overdue reports, this language restricts a portion of the aid to Somerset County Public Schools, pending submission of the overdue reports by July 1, 2024.

3. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Modify, see below.

Report on the Nonpublic Placement Program: The committees are concerned about costs for the Nonpublic Placement program; implementation of nonpublic school special education teacher pay parity related to the Teacher Pay Parity Act (Chapter 648 of 2023); and actions taken by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to implement this program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report by October 1, 2024, including (1) program closeout data for fiscal 2024 by provider, including annual reimbursement costs and documentation on potential remaining discrepancies at the end of the fiscal year; (2) actions taken in calendar 2023 and 2024 to implement Chapter 648; and (3) planned actions related to implementation of Chapter 648 and efforts to achieve pay parity in future years.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on the Nonpublic Placement program

MSDE

October 1, 2024

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MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions

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First House Modification

Adopt the following narrative:

Adopt.

Report on the Nonpublic Placement Program: The committees are interested in the Nonpublic Placement program; implementation of nonpublic school special education teacher pay parity related to the Teacher Pay Parity Act (Chapter 648 of 2023); and actions taken by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to implement this program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report by October 1, 2024, including (1) program closeout data for fiscal 2024 by provider, including annual reimbursement costs and documentation on potential remaining discrepancies at the end of the fiscal year; (2) actions taken in calendar 2023 and 2024 to implement Chapter 648; and (3) planned actions related to implementation of Chapter 648 and efforts to achieve pay parity in future years.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on the Nonpublic Placement program

MSDE

October 1, 2024

4. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Status Update on the Autism Waiver Program: The committees are concerned about the Autism Waiver program, which currently has a registry of more than 6,000 individuals and is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The committees request that MSDE submit a status update on this program by September 1, 2024, that provides the following information:

- current number of waiver slots requested and approved;
- procedures to contact individuals on the registry when slots become available;
- a timeline for the addition of slots from fiscal 2025 through 2029;

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MSDE – Aid to Education

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- projected costs for Autism Waiver services considering anticipated changes in the management of the Autism Waiver registry for fiscal 2025 through 2029.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on the Autism Waiver program	MSDE	September 1, 2024

5. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Status Update on the Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program (P-TECH): The committees are concerned about enrollment and projected costs for the P-TECH program, which is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local education agencies (LEA). An accurate P-TECH enrollment count is important because P-TECH students are included in the full-time enrollment count for the State Share of the Foundation program. P-TECH program costs are determined by a variety of factors, including student enrollment in community college courses and the costs for those courses in any given year. The committees request that MSDE submit a status update on the P-TECH program by August 1, 2023, that provides the following information:

- explanation of the process by which MSDE includes P-TECH students in the full-time enrollment count;
- current enrollment in all P-TECH programs by high school, community college, cohort, and entry year, including a breakout of fifth- and sixth-year students;
- projected enrollment in all P-TECH programs in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the total number of students who left the program in any given year and reasons for departure; ● the total number of students who have graduated by program and the percentage completion rate; ● community college courses attended by P-TECH students with cost per course per semester; ● current cost for the program in fiscal 2025 and total projected cost for the program in fiscal 2026; and ● projected average cost by student, program, and LEA for fiscal 2025 and 2026, including supplemental school and college grants by institution and LEA. 					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on P-TECH	MSDE	August 1, 2024

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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6. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Modify, see below.

Status Update on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP):

The committees are concerned by disruptions to learning and learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and costs for MCAP assessment development and implementation. The committees request that by November 1, 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a status update on MCAP assessments and expenditures, including but not limited to:

- a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;
- details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2024-2025 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;
- details on MCAP administration in the 2024-2025 school year by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;
- anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years; and
- expenditures in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2026 for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on MCAP	MSDE	November 1, 2024

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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First House Modification

Add the following language:

Adopt.

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of the State Superintendent may not be expended until the agency submits to the budget committees by November 1, 2024, a report on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). This report should include, but is not limited to:

- (1) a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;

- (2) details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2024-2025 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;

- (3) details on MCAP administration in the 2024-2025 school year by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;

- (4) anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;

- (5) expenditures in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2026 for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor;

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(6) <u>information pertaining to any formal review of MCAP assessments and standards in calendar 2024 and 2025 by MSDE, by curriculum and assessment, including any anticipated changes to MCAP assessments as a result of that review and the projected costs of those changes; and</u>						
(7) <u>information on adaptive testing and how MSDE is working to resolve reported concerns with adaptive testing, by grade level and assessment, including actions MSDE has taken in calendar 2024 or plans to take in calendar 2025, to assist teachers in preparing students for these assessments, including actions such as providing teachers with test banks, assessment preparation materials, formative assessments, diagnostic tests, professional development, or any other materials or actions aligned with MCAP assessments.</u>						

The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: MSDE is responsible for administering student assessments as part of MCAP. Due to continuing issues involving student learning loss after school closures in calendar 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 as well as reported issues with adaptive testing and misalignment between MCAP tests and the current Maryland curriculum standards in certain subjects, this language directs MSDE to submit a report regarding actions the agency is taking to resolve these issues.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MCAP	MSDE	November 1, 2024

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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7. Adopt the following narrative:			Concur.		Adopt.
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Reports on Local Education Agency (LEA) COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Expenditures: In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, LEAs received a total of \$256.6 million as authorized in the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (Chapter 39 of 2021) and allocated in the fiscal 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 357 of 2022) for tutoring, behavioral health, summer school, school reopening, and transitional supplemental instruction. As part of mandated reporting in Chapter 55 of 2021, the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Program – Revisions, LEAs were required to report on expenditures of these funds to the General Assembly and the Accountability and Implementation Board through calendar 2023. Based on the reports submitted in calendar 2023 and the timeline for expenditures of federal stimulus funds distributed as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which do not expire until September 2024, the committees are concerned that some LEAs have not expended all funds, and, for some LEAs, expenditures were not accurately reported. The committees request that the 24 LEAs submit a final report by December 1, 2024, consistent with the requirements of the previously mandated report on COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures, which requested the following information: (1) the county board’s use of federal funding to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education; and (2) State funding received to implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Program, including a description of the amount of funding spent on student instruction. Additionally, as part of this submission, LEAs should review previous reports for this purpose and document corrections in this final report.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
LEA reports on COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures	LEAs	December 1, 2024

R00A02
MSDE – Aid to Education

Additional First House Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Adopt.

, provided that \$250,000 of the appropriation made for the purpose of education State aid for the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) in the Aid to Education budget may not be expended until BCPS executes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a federally qualified health center to operate a school-based health center at Frederick Douglass High School and a letter with a summary of the MOU has been submitted to the budget committees. The letter shall be submitted by September 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Frederick Douglass High School in BCPS is the anticipated location of a school-based health center. This language restricts funds until BCPS executes a MOU with a federally qualified health center and submits a letter summarizing the MOU.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Letter on the MOU from BCPS

BCPS

September 1, 2024

R00A03
MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">, provided that this appropriation shall be for the purchase of textbooks or computer hardware and software and other electronically delivered learning materials as permitted under Title III, Section 2416(b)(4), (6), and (7) of the No Child Left Behind Act for loan to students in eligible nonpublic schools with a maximum distribution of \$65 per eligible nonpublic school student for participating schools, except that at schools where at least 20% <u>from 20% to 40%</u> of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program there shall be a distribution of \$95 per student, <u>and at schools where more than 40% of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program there shall be a distribution of \$155 per student.</u></p> <p>Explanation: This action amends language modifying the distribution of funding for the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program so that schools where more than 40% of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program receive \$155 per student. Similar language has been included in the budget since fiscal 2017. It also strikes language regarding the No Child Left Behind Act due to technical differences with the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.</p>				Concur.	Adopt.	
<p>2. Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:</p> <p>(2) Not charge more tuition to a participating student than the statewide average per pupil expenditure by the local education agencies, as calculated by the department, with appropriate exceptions for special education students as determined by the department; and</p> <p>(3) Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; <u>and</u></p> <p>(4) <u>Submit its student handbook or other written policy related to student admissions to the Maryland State Department of Education for review to ensure compliance with program eligibility requirements.</u></p>				Disagree. MSDE cites the ruling in Bethel Ministries, Inc. v. Salmon et al. SAG-19-1853 (Jan. 12, 2022). In the court’s Opinion, the State violated Bethel’s First Amendment speech rights by excluding Bethel from the BOOST program based only on the content of its admissions policy. There was no evidence that the nonpublic school actually discriminated against students. For this reason, we request the handbook review requirement be deleted.	Adopt.	

R00A03
MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

Explanation: This action requires schools that participate in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program to submit a student handbook or policy on student admissions to the Maryland State Department of Education to ensure compliance with program eligibility requirements.

3. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Concur.

Adopt.

Further provided that a nonpublic school participating in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program R00A03.04 shall certify compliance with Title 20, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article. A nonpublic school participating in the program may not discriminate in student admissions, retention, or expulsion, or otherwise discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Nothing herein shall require any school or institution to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with its religious or moral teachings. However, all participating schools must agree that they will not discriminate in student admissions, retention, or expulsion or otherwise discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Any school found to be in violation of the requirements to not discriminate shall be required to return to the Maryland State Department of Education all textbooks or computer hardware and software and other electronically delivered learning materials acquired through the fiscal 2024 allocation. The only other legal remedy for violation of these provisions is ineligibility for participating in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program. Any school that is found in violation of the nondiscrimination requirements in fiscal 2024 or 2025 may not participate in the program in fiscal 2025. It is the intent of the General Assembly that a school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements is ineligible to participate in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program, the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program, the James E. “Ed” DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program and the Nonpublic School Security Improvements Program in the year of the violation and the following two years.

Explanation: This action requires a nonpublic school participating in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program to certify compliance with Title 20, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article (Discrimination in Employment). It also specifies that a

R00A03
MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
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participating school may not discriminate in student admissions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Violation of these provisions means that a school will be ineligible for the program. Similar language has been included in the budget since fiscal 2017. This action also specifies that schools that violate the provisions must return all textbooks and technology received through the program to the Maryland State Department of Education. It also states that a school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements in fiscal 2024 or 2025 is not eligible to participate in the program in fiscal 2025 and states legislative intent that any school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements is ineligible to participate in any program that provides funding to nonpublic schools for a total of three years.

4. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Concur.

Adopt.

Further provided that \$700,000 of this appropriation shall be used only to provide an additional award for each student with special needs that is at least equal in amount to the BOOST Program scholarship award that a student is awarded in accordance with paragraph (6) above.

Further provided that MSDE shall submit a report to the budget committees by January 15, 2025, that includes the following:

- (1) the number of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;
- (2) the amount of the BOOST Program scholarships received;
- (3) the number of certified and noncertified teachers in core subject areas for each nonpublic school participating in the BOOST Program;
- (4) the assessments being administered by nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program and the results of these assessments. MSDE shall report the assessment results reported by nonpublic schools to the budget committees in an aggregate manner that does not violate student data privacy;

R00A03
MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(5) <u>in the aggregate, for each BOOST Program scholarship awarded (a) the nonpublic school and grade level attended by the student; (b) the school attended in the 2023-2024 school year by the student; and (c) if the student attended the same nonpublic school in the 2023-2024 school year, whether, what type, and how much nonpublic scholarship aid the student received in the 2023-2024 school year and will receive in the 2024-2025 school year;</u>						
(6) <u>the average household income of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u>						
(7) <u>the racial breakdown of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u>						
(8) <u>the number of students designated as English language learners receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u>						
(9) <u>the number of special education students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u>						
(10) <u>the county in which students receiving BOOST Program scholarships reside;</u>						
(11) <u>the number of students who were offered BOOST Program scholarships but declined them as well as their reasons for declining the scholarships and the breakdown of students attending public and nonpublic schools for students who declined scholarships;</u>						
(12) <u>the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year who are attending public school for the 2024-2025 school year as well as their reasons for returning to public schools; and</u>						
(13) <u>the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools they were attending and the reasons for which they withdrew or</u>						

R00A03
MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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were expelled; the schools they withdrew or were expelled from; and the length of time students receiving BOOST Program scholarships were enrolled at a nonpublic school before withdrawing or being expelled.

Explanation: This language requires MSDE to report by January 15, 2025, on the distribution of the BOOST scholarships; information on the students receiving BOOST scholarships; teacher certifications for nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program; and assessments being administered in nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program, including student performance. The language also requires that MSDE report on students who choose to decline scholarships or attend public schools after participating in the BOOST Program in the past, along with their reasons for doing so, and information on students receiving scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools that they were attending. Finally, the language requires that the BOOST Advisory Board shall take into account the special needs of students with disabilities as it is determining scholarship award amounts and that \$700,000 of the BOOST appropriation shall be used to provide higher awards for these students.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
BOOST Program participation	MSDE	January 15, 2025

R00A99
MSDE Early Childhood Development

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Waiting List Proposal: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) indicates that the fiscal 2025 allowance for the CCS program does not incorporate estimated savings resulting from a provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 that would authorize MSDE to implement an enrollment freeze under the program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report with the following information:

- an outline of specific spending or enrollment triggers that would prompt the implementation of an enrollment freeze within the CCS program. These triggers should indicate if they are based on predetermined thresholds or indicators that signify financial constraints or capacity limitations, among others;
- strategies proposed by MSDE for effectively managing waitlists within the CCS program. These strategies should address how waitlists will be monitored, prioritized, and managed to ensure allocation of subsidies to eligible families; and
- fiscal 2024 and 2025 year-to-date forecasts from the Regional Economic Studies Institute at Towson University for the CCS program, including estimated savings related to the implementation of an enrollment freeze.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on plans for a CCS waiting list

MSDE

September 1, 2024

R00A99
MSDE Early Childhood Development

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Quarterly Reports: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has implemented several changes under the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program in short succession, including raising income eligibility levels, increasing provider reimbursement rates, and waiving assigned copayments for most participating families, that all took effect May 23, 2022. These programmatic changes combined with enrollment growth have led to higher CCS program costs and shortfalls in fiscal 2023 and 2024. The committees request that MSDE submit quarterly reports with the following information:

- CCS expenditures, including Child Care and Development Fund spending that was carried over from prior fiscal years, the amount of newly authorized federal funds expended (with federal awards from COVID-19 stimulus legislation listed separately), and general fund spending;
- fiscal 2025 year-to-date spending and annualized cost estimates, noting the adequacy of remaining State and federal fund sources;
- the number of scholarships awarded by income eligibility category by month, total expenditures for those scholarships, and average cost per child;
- CCS expenditures disaggregated by federal and State funding used directly for scholarships and expenditures by MSDE Headquarters for administrative costs and activities to improve provider quality, specified by purpose;
- updates on the provider reimbursement rate as a percentile of the market rate, statewide and by region, including the status of the next market rate survey or alternative method allowable under federal law;
- quarterly updates on whether the department is maintaining a CCS waiting list and, if so, which income categories are impacted and how many children

R00A99
MSDE Early Childhood Development

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

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**House
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and families have applied for CCS benefits and been added to the waiting list; and

- updates on the implementation of an enrollment freeze and changes in copayments, including up-to-date savings estimates.

In its August 2024 report, MSDE should include actual data for the CCS program in the final quarter of fiscal 2024 and aggregate fiscal 2024 data. All reports should provide data on a monthly basis for fiscal 2025 year to date.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CCS quarterly expenditure reports	MSDE	August 1, 2024 November 1, 2024 February 1, 2025 May 1, 2025

R11A
Maryland State Library Agency

DLS Recommended Actions

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur.		Adopt.
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R12
Accountability and Implementation Board

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>, provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submits a report to the budget committees on agency actions to implement Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (Blueprint) grant programs. This report shall include a timeline and detailed information on the progress in completing the following programs, reports, and measures:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>fiscal 2023 and 2024 Managing for Results performance data, including collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for annual data collection and reporting of performance measures;</u></p> <p>(2) <u>review of calendar 2023 and 2024 State agency Blueprint implementation plans;</u></p> <p>(3) <u>collaboration with MSDE, the State Board of Education, and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to revise teacher preparation program requirements;</u></p> <p>(4) <u>collaboration with MSDE to provide targeted training on Blueprint to superintendents, school administrators, senior instructional staff, and local boards of education;</u></p> <p>(5) <u>progress on procuring a vendor to complete the independent evaluation of Blueprint implementation and outcomes; and</u></p> <p>(6) <u>allocation, facilitation, and review of local education agency (LEA) and Career and Technology Education Committee technical assistance grants in fiscal 2023 and 2024, including grant application procedures and documentation, use of funds, roles and responsibilities of strategic facilitators, categorized expenditures by LEA, and AIB collaboration, training, and accountability measures for grantees.</u></p>			Concur.		Adopt.	

R12
Accountability and Implementation Board

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

The report shall be submitted by September 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: AIB is an independent agency of State government that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Blueprint grant programs. Due to recent issues involving the timely submission of reports, grant administration, required training, and other administrative tasks, this language restricts funding budgeted for administrative purposes until AIB submits a report regarding the timeline and planned agency actions to complete the activities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on delayed activities supporting Blueprint implementation	AIB	September 1, 2024

R13M00
Morgan State University

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur.

Adopt.

R15P00
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Disagree.

Adopt.

R30B00*

University System of Maryland Overview

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B23
Bowie State University

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B27
Coppin State University

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B28
University of Baltimore

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B29
Salisbury University

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B30
University of Maryland Global Campus

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.			Concur.	Adopt.	

R30B31
University of Maryland Baltimore County

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for system wide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B34
UM Center for Environmental Science

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R30B36
University System of Maryland Office

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. See the University System of Maryland overview for systemwide recommendations.

Concur.

Adopt.

R62I00.01
Maryland Higher Education Commission

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>, provided that since the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency’s administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>MHEC has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2024; and</u></p> <p>(2) <u>a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2025.</u></p>				<p>Concur in part. Will work OLA to adopt corrective action. Disagree with restricting funds.</p>	<p>Adopt.</p>	

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings. If OLA reports that an agency failed to completely resolve or make adequate progress toward resolving those repeat audit findings, JAEC requests that \$250,000 in general funds is withheld from each agency’s appropriation in the fiscal year following the OLA report until more satisfactory progress has been made toward resolution of those repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
State of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

R62I00.01
Maryland Higher Education Commission

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

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Decisions

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Category: In order to more fully understand all types of aid available to students, the committees request that data be submitted for each community college, public four-year institution, and independent institution on institutional aid, Pell grants, and student loans. Data should include, by EFC, the number of loans and average loan size of federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans and loans from private sources as reported to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Additionally, data should be provided on Pell grants, including the number and average award size by EFC. Finally, data should include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for institutional grants, institutional athletic scholarships, and other institutional scholarships. The data in the response should differentiate between need-based aid and merit scholarships. Data should also include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for tuition waivers/remissions of fees to employees and dependents and students. Waiver information for students should be reported by each type of waiver in State law. This report should cover fiscal 2023 data received by MHEC from State institutions and is to be submitted in an electronic format (Excel file).

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Institutional aid, Pell grants, and loan data by EFC

MHEC

July 1, 2024

R62I00.01
Maryland Higher Education Commission

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

3. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% Completion

Goal: The committees understand that in order to meet the State’s goal to have at least 55% of Maryland’s residents ages 25 to 64 holding at least one degree credential by 2025, accurate and timely information on degree progression and best practices is needed to ensure that the State is on track to meet the goal. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) annually collect and analyze student- and transcript-level data on progression, graduation, and other relevant metrics from each public institution of higher education, including community colleges and regional higher education centers. MHEC should submit a report by December 15 each year that analyzes the data and shows each institution’s progress toward the State and institutional goals in 2025. The report should also include a summary of best practices and findings on the effectiveness of institutions’ programs as well as any concerns regarding lack of progress or best practices that are not being implemented by institutions.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on best practices and annual progress toward the 55% completion goal

MHEC

December 15,
2024

R62I00.05
Aid to Community Colleges

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Developmental Education at Community Colleges: The committees are interested in the impact that different developmental education strategies have on students' outcomes. The committees request that the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) submit a report on the development education approach at the State's community colleges. The report should include information related to, but not limited to, the use of corequisites, multiple measures placement, and math pathways. In addition to data on the methods of developmental education, the report should include how colleges work with students needing developmental education and ensure completion of necessary coursework. Recognizing that the Maryland Higher Education Commission data on developmental outcomes is not the most recent, the report should include any information on student outcomes related to recently implemented developmental education outcomes. This report shall be submitted by November 4, 2024.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on developmental education

MACC

November 4, 2024

R62I00.05
Aid to Community Colleges

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Adopt the following narrative: Adopt.

Tuition Waivers and Supplemental Services: The committees are interested in better understanding the impact of tuition waivers and the cost of supplemental services and supports provided by the community colleges. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) jointly submit a report on tuition waivers for students and supplemental services and supports provided to students with disabilities provided by community colleges. The report should include the type of tuition waivers provided by community colleges and, for each waiver, the number of waivers provided and the cost to colleges for each community college. The report should indicate if any of the tuition waivers are designated for students with disabilities. The report should also include information on the cost of the supplemental services and supports that the community colleges provide to students with disabilities by college and on per student basis. The report should include data for fiscal 2022 through 2024 or the three most recent years of actual available data.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Tuition waiver and supplemental services	MHEC MACC	October 1, 2024

R62I00.10
MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
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Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

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1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Reject.

Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards: The committees are interested in the impact the 30-credit-hour requirement had on students in the 2023-2024 academic year and the 2024-2025 awarding year, specifically if students are meeting the requirement in order to receive the full amount of award, how many students had their awards prorated, and how many students lost eligibility. The report should also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report should provide summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report should also identify how the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) alerts Educational Excellence Award (EEA) recipients that they are in danger of losing their award, as all segments are showing signs of increasing populations of students not meeting the 24-credit-hour minimum. The report should identify the updated funding disbursement, by EEA award type and by total credit attainment grouping, for the students from the most recent review cycle as well as what the total funding amount was, by EEA award type, prior to those students having their award funding amounts revised.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards

MHEC

December 11, 2024

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Postsecondary Outcomes: The committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. The report should identify the number of NGS seniors for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility

R62I00.10
MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

requirements, the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award, and the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on postsecondary
outcomes for NGS senior students

Maryland Higher
Education Commission

December 1, 2024

R62I00.10
MHEC - Student Financial Assistance

Additional First House Actions

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Adopt.

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses in the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) appropriation may not be expended until MHEC submits a report to the budget committees on the impact of credit completion requirements on financial aid awards for students in the 2023-2024 academic year and the 2024-2025 awarding year. The report should provide information on how many students met the requirement to receive the full amount of award, had their awards prorated, and lost eligibility. In addition, the report shall include, for the most recent review cycle, the total amount of funds distributed by Educational Excellence Award (EEA) type, and the distribution of that funding by level of credit attainment categories and, to the extent available, the dollar value of the reduced and lost EEA award due to the level of credit attainment. The report shall also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours and those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report shall provide the summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report shall also identify how MHEC alerts EEA recipients that they are in danger of losing their award. The report shall be submitted by December 11, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the general fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in continuing to monitor the impact of the credit completion requirements on students receiving EEA awards. This language restricts funds pending a report on the impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards.

R62I00.10
MHEC - Student Financial Assistance

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards	MHEC	December 11, 2024

2. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Adopt.

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits a report to the budget committees containing a review of the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. The report shall provide information on:

- (1) how often the website is updated;
- (2) frequency and types of website malfunctions;
- (3) website transparency, including regularity of use of breaking news notifications;
- (4) an assessment of usability;
- (5) information on items posted on the website, including programs, types of research data, and description of supportive services; and
- (6) resources provided on the website to assist individuals applying for financial aid or repaying student loan debt.

The report shall be submitted by December 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the general fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

R62I00.10
MHEC - Student Financial Assistance

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in understanding the information available on the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. This language restricts funds pending a report on the evaluation of the website and information on how to apply for financial aid.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the evaluation of the website and how to apply for financial aid.	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2024

R75T00.01
State Support for Higher Education Institutions

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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| <p>1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:</p> | | | <p>Disagree. The agency has submitted the report since the writing of the analysis.</p> | | <p>Reject.</p> |
|---|--|--|---|--|----------------|

, provided that \$750,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until Baltimore City Community College submits a report to the budget committees on the implementation of Realignment Task 6. The report shall include the exact number of faculty on 1-, 2-, and 3-year contracts, broken down by degree or certificate program. The report shall also detail the extent to which faculty have participated in the construction of a plan to implement this realignment task. The report shall also contain any plans to offer faculty impacted by a degree or certificate program slated for phase out or reduction a similar position elsewhere in the college, and how the college proposes to respect faculty seniority in layoff or reinstatement matters. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This language restricts funds pending a report on BCCC's implementation of Realignment Task 6 and the faculty contract system.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Faculty Contract System and Realignment Task 6 report	BCCC	October 1, 2024

- | | | | | | |
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| <p>2. Adopt the following narrative:</p> | | | <p>Concur.</p> | | <p>Adopt.</p> |
|--|--|--|----------------|--|---------------|

Instructional Faculty Workload Report: The committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) continue to provide annual instructional workload reports for tenured/tenure-track faculty. By focusing on these faculty, the committees gain a sense of the teaching activities for the regular core faculty. However, there are other types of instructional faculty at institutions, such as full- and

R75T00.01
State Support for Higher Education Institutions

DLS Recommended Actions

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part-time nontenured/nontenure-track faculty including adjunct faculty, instructors, and lecturers. Focusing on only tenured/tenure-track faculty provides an incomplete picture of how students are taught. Therefore, the report should also include the instructional workload when all types of faculty are considered. Additional information may be included at the institution's discretion. Furthermore, the USM report should include the percent of faculty meeting or exceeding teaching standards for tenured/tenure-track faculty for the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Annual report on faculty workload

USM
MSU
SMCM

December 13, 2024

R75T00.01
State Support for Higher Education Institutions

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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| 1. Adopt the following narrative: | Adopt. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

Report on Calculation of Graduate Credit-Hour Full-time Equivalent Student (FTES): The credit hour FTES enrollment at Maryland’s selected public four-year institutions is used in the calculation of the Cade, Sellinger, and Baltimore City Community College funding formulas. Calculating annual undergraduate credit hour FTES is a straightforward calculation that divides the total number of undergraduate credits produced by 30 (representing a full-year credit load). However, the method for determining graduate credit hour FTES can vary from simply dividing the total number of graduate credit hours produced by 24 (for a full-year credit load) or by disaggregating graduate credit hours by course level, degree level, and novel research requirements to better reflect the intensity of higher-level doctoral course work and novel research productivity compared to master’s level course work. Given the variation in calculating graduate credit hour FTES, the committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM) convene a workgroup to develop a uniform methodology for calculating graduate credit hour FTES to be used by the public four-year institutions when calculating their total FTES. A report should be submitted jointly by USM, MSU, and SMCM by September 16, 2024, and include the agreed upon methodology that all institutions will use in calculating their graduate credit hour FTES.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on calculation of graduate FTES	USM MSU SMCM	September 16, 2024

R95C00
Baltimore City Community College

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Disagree. The agency has submitted the report since the writing of the analysis. Reject.

Further provided that \$750,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until Baltimore City Community College submits a report to the budget committees on the implementation of Realignment Task 6. The report shall include the exact number of faculty on one-, two-, and three-year contracts, broken down by degree or certificate program. The report shall also detail the extent to which faculty have participated in the construction of a plan to implement this realignment task. The report shall also contain any plans to offer faculty impacted by a degree or certificate program slated for phase out or reduction a similar position elsewhere in the college, and how the college proposes to respect faculty seniority in layoff or reinstatement matters. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This language restricts funds pending a report on Baltimore City Community College’s (BCCC) implementation of Realignment Task 6 and the faculty contract system.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Faculty Contract System and Realignment Task 6 report	BCCC	October 1, 2024

R95C00
Baltimore City Community College

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
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Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

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Decisions

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Enrollment and the Mayor’s Scholars Program (MSP): The committees request a report on MSP that includes updated information on MSP for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years and that identifies what additional actions are being taken to increase enrollment per full-time equivalent student. Additionally, the report should provide the following information on MSP: (1) the number of applications received for all cohorts; the number of students who enrolled each semester, and the number of first-year students who enrolled in the second, third, and fourth year (where applicable); (2) the number of students who participated in the Summer Bridge program for all cohorts; (3) the number of students in all cohorts applicable who have successfully completed at least 15 credits each semester, or a total of 30 credits in their academic year; and (4) the amount of financial aid provided to scholars in year one, two, three, and four by cohort, including the total amount each year and the average student award.

Concur in part. The 2022-2023 information has already been submitted. Modified, see below.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Enrollment and MSP

Baltimore City
Community College

December 2, 2024

R95C00
Baltimore City Community College

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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| 1. Adopt the following narrative: | Adopt. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

Enrollment and the Mayor’s Scholars Program (MSP): The committees request a report on MSP that includes updated information on MSP for the 2023-2024 academic year and that identifies what additional actions are being taken to increase enrollment per full-time equivalent student. Additionally, the report should provide the following information on MSP: (1) the number of applications received for all cohorts, the number of students who enrolled each semester, and the number of first-year students who enrolled in the second, third, and fourth year (where applicable); (2) the number of students who participated in the Summer Bridge program for all cohorts; (3) the number of students in all cohorts applicable who have successfully completed at least 15 credits each semester, or a total of 30 credits in their academic year; and (4) the amount of financial aid provided to scholars in year one, two, three, and four by cohort, including the total amount each year and the average student award.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Enrollment and MSP	Baltimore City Community College	December 2, 2024

R99E
Maryland School for the Deaf

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

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Decisions**

1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Concur.

Adopt.

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland School for the Deaf submits a report addressing concerns from a January 2024 audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits. This report shall provide details on actions taken by the agency to resolve all four audit findings. The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: In a recent audit by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) had four findings, including one repeat finding. These findings involved procurement procedures, Department of General Services and Board of Public Works approvals, bids on eMaryland Marketplace Advantage, and a memorandum of understanding with an affiliated foundation. This language directs MSD to submit a report regarding actions taken to resolve these findings.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on OLA findings

MSD

November 1, 2024

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

Adopt.

Report on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Scores: The KRA is a standardized test used by the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) as a Managing for Results (MFR) measure to assess students entering kindergarten in four areas: language and literacy; mathematics; social foundations; and physical well-being and motor development. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal 2019, students scored above 40% proficiency in mathematics and physical well-being and below 20% proficiency in language and literacy and social foundations. Due to pandemic-related

R99E
Maryland School for the Deaf

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
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**Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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school closures, in fiscal 2020 through 2023, students scored below 30% proficiency in all measures, with student language and literacy and social foundations scores at or below 10% proficiency. The MFR goal for this measure is for 45% of entering kindergartners to be proficient in each tested area. Due to concerns with continued lags in KRA scores, the committees request that MSD report by December 1, 2024, on actions taken by MSD, including local education agencies and organizations that work with kindergarten students entering MSD, to improve KRA scores for entering kindergarteners in all tested areas.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on KRA scores

MSD

December 1, 2024

S50B01
Maryland African American Museum Corporation

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur.	Adopt.	

T00
Department of Commerce

DLS Recommended Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Add the following language:</p> <p><u>Provided that \$96,494 of general funds, \$30,792 of special funds, and \$2,899 of federal funds of this appropriation made for the purpose of personnel expenditures shall be reduced to increase the turnover expectancy. The Department of Commerce is authorized to allocate this reduction across the agency’s programs.</u></p> <p>Explanation: This action adds language to reduce personnel expenditures in order to increase the turnover rate for existing positions within the Department of Commerce from 4.89% to 5.43%, the same level as fiscal 2024.</p>			<p>Disagree. Commerce reports that its recent higher-than-usual vacancy rate is not expected to continue in the coming fiscal year. The higher vacancy rate is due in part to the departure of political appointees and to internal promotions, and they are in the process of filling those vacancies.</p>	Adopt.	
<p>2. Amend the following language in the general fund appropriation:</p> <p>, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$1,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation to eliminate <u>the funding mandate</u> for the Business Telework Assistance Grant Program as established under Sections 5-1701 and 5-1702 of the Economic Development Article.</p> <p>Explanation: This is a technical amendment to align the wording of the contingent language in the budget bill with the SB 473 and HB 582 as introduced.</p>			Concur.	Adopt.	

T00
Department of Commerce

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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1. Add the following language to the special fund appropriation: Adopt.

, provided that \$500,000 of this special fund appropriation for the purpose of the Preservation of Cultural Arts Program may be expended only for the purpose of providing grants to the following organizations:

- (1) \$50,000 as a grant to the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts;
- (2) \$50,000 as a grant to the College Park Arts Exchange;
- (3) \$50,000 as a grant to the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council;
- (4) \$50,000 as a grant to Identity, Inc.;
- (5) \$50,000 as a grant to Arts for Learning Maryland for programs at the Goodnow location;
- (6) \$100,000 as a grant to ArtStream, Inc.;
- (7) \$10,000 as a grant to Silhouette Stages, Inc.;
- (8) \$40,000 as a grant to the Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts;
- (9) \$50,000 as a grant to the Lyric Opera House; and
- (10) \$50,000 as a grant to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts the use of a portion of funds in the Preservation of Cultural Arts Program to be used only for grants to certain organizations.

T00A99*
Maryland Economic Development Corporation

DLS Recommended Actions

Amount
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Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
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Decisions

1. Nonbudgeted.

Concur.

Reject.

T00A99*
Maryland Economic Development Corporation

Additional First House Actions	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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| 1. Adopt the following narrative: | Adopt. |
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Study on Barriers to Accessing Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) for Small, Woman-, Minority-, and Veteran-Owned Businesses: The committees are concerned that the cost to meet federal requirements to access classified information is higher than small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses can afford within their first five to seven years in operation. In particular, businesses may need access to SCIFs in order to bid and qualify for national security and cybersecurity contracts, but the cost to access SCIFs may be cost prohibitive for these businesses. In an effort to better understand the challenges facing these businesses and possible solutions to ensure equitable access to building the cyber economy, the committees direct the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to conduct a study on the potential to establish grant programs or other incentives to help lower the barriers to access to SCIFs for small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses. The committees request MEDCO submit a report by November 1, 2024, detailing the study’s findings and recommendations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on findings and recommendations regarding equitable access to SCIFs for small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses.	MEDCO	November 1, 2024

T50T01
Maryland Technology Development Corporation

DLS Recommended Actions

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

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1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur.

Adopt.