



Report of the
**Public Safety and
Administration Subcommittee**
To the House Appropriations Committee

2024 SESSION

Recommendations, Reductions, and Summary of
Action Pertaining to:
Senate Bill 360

General Assembly of Maryland
House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
2024 Session Membership Roster

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Recommended Reductions
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
2025 Budget Request					
Judiciary	-\$14,010,680	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$14,010,680
Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy	-5,170,947	0	0	0	-5,170,947
Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture	-28,622	0	0	0	-28,622
Comptroller of Maryland	-1,037,484	-157,991	0	0	-1,195,475
Department of State Police	-507,914	0	0	0	-507,914
<i>Subtotal – Fiscal 2025 Regular Budget</i>	<i>-\$20,755,647</i>	<i>-\$157,991</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$20,913,638</i>
IIA: Fiscal 2025 Total Budget	-\$20,755,647	-\$157,991	\$0	\$0	-\$20,913,638
2024 Budget Request					
Judiciary	-\$500,000				-\$500,000
<i>Subtotal – Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget</i>	<i>-\$500,000</i>				<i>-\$500,000</i>
Fiscal 2024 Total Budget	-\$500,000				-\$500,000
Grand Total Budget Bill	-\$21,255,647	-\$157,991	\$0	\$0	-\$21,413,638

C00A00 Judiciary

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$5,600,000 in general funds made for the purpose of operating expenses is reduced. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs within the Judiciary.

Explanation: This action reduces the fiscal 2025 general fund appropriation for operating expenses to more closely align with actual spending. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.

Add the following language:

Further provided that \$7,910,680 in general funds made for the purpose of employee merit increases is reduced. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.

Explanation: This action reduces the portion of the fiscal 2025 general fund appropriation for employee merit increases that are double budgeted. The remaining funding by the Judiciary for merit increases plus the amount budgeted in the Statewide Program in the Department of Budget and Management provides funding for employee merit increases at a level commensurate with the level provided for other State employees.

C00A00.04 District Court

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 in general funds made for the purpose of providing attorneys for required representation at initial appearances before District Court commissioners is reduced.

Explanation: This reduction is made in order to fund the implementation of DeWolfe v. Richmond consistent with actual expenditures seen in fiscal 2023. In fiscal 2023, \$8,621,155 was utilized for this purpose, and \$628,845 was unused.

C00A00

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$8,750,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of providing attorneys for required representation at initial appearances before District Court commissioners consistent with the holding of the Supreme Court of Maryland in DeWolfe v. Richmond may be expended only for that purpose. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts the use of \$8.75 million of the Judiciary’s general fund appropriation for the implementation of DeWolfe v. Richmond to that purpose only.

Committee Narrative

Appointed Attorney Program Costs and Utilization: The committees remain interested in the costs and operations of the Appointed Attorney Program. The committees request a report, to be submitted by October 1, 2024, detailing the fiscal 2024 costs and utilization of the Appointed Attorney Program. This report should include the number of appearances before District Court commissioners where attorneys were appointed to represent indigent defendants and the outcomes of those appearances.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Appointed Attorney Program costs and utilization	Judiciary	October 1, 2024

C00A00.06 Administrative Office of the Courts

Annual Court Performance Measures: The committees remain interested in evaluating the performance of the circuit and District courts. The committees request a report, to be submitted by December 15, 2024, with annual court performance measures data for the circuit and District courts.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual court performance measures report	Judiciary	December 15, 2024

C00A00

Problem-Solving Court (PSC) Performance and Funding: The committees are interested in the work of the Judiciary’s PSCs. The committees request a report, to be submitted by December 15, 2024, showing the funding allocated for fiscal 2024 and 2025 and actual expenditures for the operation of each type of PSC in fiscal 2024 and anticipated for fiscal 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
PSC funding and expenditures report	Judiciary	December 15, 2024

Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP) Status Report: The committees remain interested in the Judiciary’s MITDPs. The committees request a report, to be submitted by December 15, 2024, detailing the MITDPs being undertaken by the Judiciary.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MITDP status report	Judiciary	December 15, 2024

Land Records Improvement Fund (LRIF) Balance Report: The committees are interested in the status of the LRIF. The committees request a report, to be submitted by December 15, 2024, showing the fiscal 2024 revenues and expenditures for the fund, along with forecasted revenues and expenditures for fiscal 2025 through 2029. The report should also include a breakdown of the expenditures for circuit court offices.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
LRIF balance report	Judiciary	December 15, 2024

Judgeship Need for Fiscal 2026: The committees remain interested in the judgeship needs at the Judiciary. The committees request a report, to be submitted by December 15, 2024, detailing the fiscal 2026 judgeship needs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Judgeship needs for fiscal 2026	Judiciary	December 15, 2024

C00A00

Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Appropriation

\$500,000 in general funds is reduced from the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program C00A00.04 District Court within the Judiciary that was made for the purpose of implementing the Supreme Court of Maryland's decision in DeWolfe v. Richmond.

Explanation: This includes a reduction to fiscal 2024 funding in the Judiciary to better align with anticipated expenditures for the implementation of the Supreme Court of Maryland's decision in DeWolfe v. Richmond.

C80B00
Office of the Public Defender

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$2,521,233 in general funds, \$386 in special funds, and \$9,852 in federal funds of the appropriation made for the purpose of salaries and wages in the Office of the Public Defender may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be used only to increase salaries for existing positions. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: The Office of the Public Defender currently has a vacancy rate above the agency’s budgeted turnover rate. These funds are not expected to be needed for vacant positions and are instead to be used to increase salaries for existing positions.

Committee Narrative

Hiring, Separation, and Caseloads Report: The committees are concerned with ongoing vacancy issues within the Office of the Public Defender (OPD). The committees request a report detailing the number of attorneys hired by OPD in each year from fiscal 2019 to 2024 including the total number of employees hired for each position and the reasons for separations of attorneys from OPD. This report should also include the average annual caseloads for attorneys in each division in fiscal 2024 compared to the standards utilized by OPD.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Attorney hiring, separation, and caseloads report	OPD	December 1, 2024

C81C
Office of the Attorney General

Committee Narrative

C81C00.01 Legal Counsel and Advice

Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Quarterly Reports: The committees remain interested in the progress of the implementation of the ACE program. The committees request quarterly reports on the progress of the rollout of the ACE program. The first report should be submitted no later than October 15, 2024. Each report should provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- quarterly expenditures by purpose of expense;
- a list of legal services providers participating in the program in each county;
- the number of cases with representation by attorneys in the program;
- the total number of evictions averted;
- the amount of funds paid to legal services providers;
- the number of tenants rejected by the program and the reason for rejection;
- the number of tenants seeking counsel more than once for the same property; and
- the number of tenants seeking counsel more than once for different properties.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
ACE quarterly reports	Maryland Legal Services Corporation	October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025 July 15, 2025

C96J00 Uninsured Employers' Fund

Budget Amendments

C96J00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

provided that since the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF) had unresolved repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$150,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) UEF has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2024; and
- (2) 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 receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2025.

Explanation: Due to serious repeat audit findings regarding a lack of oversight of UEF's third-party administrator, a portion of its budget will be withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit reports to the budget committees on the status of UEF's response.

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

Committee Narrative

Workgroup on the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF): The committees are concerned with the long-term solvency of UEF. An actuarial report published in 2020 projected that the fund would face insolvency by fiscal 2030, endangering its future ability to meet its obligations to injured workers. Although current trends are not as dire as the actuary's estimates, UEF's fund balance continues to be on a downward trend, and costs exceeded revenues in fiscal 2023. Operating costs have more than quadrupled in the past 10 years, from \$1.3 million in fiscal 2015 to a planned \$6.0 million in fiscal 2025. Although improved agency functioning in those years has also resulted in cost savings, continued cost increases are not sustainable in the long term without corresponding increases in revenue. To maintain solvency in the future, UEF will need to reduce costs, secure additional revenues, or a combination of both.

C96J00

In an effort to better understand the challenges facing the agency and possible solutions to ensure UEF's long-term financial health, the committees direct UEF and the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) to establish a workgroup to study and report on potential changes to UEF's funding structure, operations, or other factors that the workgroup deems relevant. In particular, the workgroup should consider options for increasing UEF's revenues and recommend whether legislative changes are needed to modify how the agency is currently funded.

At a minimum, the workgroup should include representatives from UEF, WCC, the Subsequent Injury Fund, the Maryland Insurance Administration, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company, and private workers' compensation insurers; and one member each from the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Economic Matters Committee.

The workgroup shall provide the committees with a report to be submitted by November 1, 2024, detailing the workgroup's findings and recommendations regarding UEF's long-term stability and solvency.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on findings and recommendations regarding UEF's long-term solvency	UEF WCC	November 1, 2024

D05E01
Board of Public Works

Committee Narrative

Maryland Zoo Operational Reporting: In continuance of the practice that began in July 2008, the committees request that the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc. (MZS) submit audited financial statements for fiscal 2024 and quarterly reports showing monthly attendance figures for the zoo for fiscal 2025 by visitor group. This should include a breakdown of the kinds of passes allocated.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audited financials	MZS	November 1, 2024
Quarterly reports showing monthly attendance	MZS	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025

D15A05
Boards, Commissions, and Offices

Committee Narrative

D15A05.03 Governor’s Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

Agency Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Participation Attainment and Liaison Surveys: The committees are concerned by the continued low MBE attainment in State procurement and vacancies among Small Business Reserve and MBE program liaison positions in some State agencies. The committees request that the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA), in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS), continue to administer the Agency MBE Participation and Liaison surveys and report the results, by agency, including the time required to fill vacant program liaison positions, to the committees by December 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Agency MBE participation attainment and liaison surveys	GOSBA DGS	December 1, 2024

D16A06 Secretary of State

Committee Narrative

D16A06.01 Office of the Secretary of State

Status of Vacant Positions: As of December 1, 2023, the Office of the Secretary of State reported 1 position that had been vacant for less than nine months and 1 position that had been vacant for more than one year. The Assistant Secretary of State for Charities and Legal Services is the position that had been vacant for less than nine months and was vacated due to a retirement in June 2023. The office is working to reclassify this senior level director title into 2 lower-level positions. The position that had been vacant for more than one year is a new forensic auditor position approved in a supplemental budget to the fiscal 2024 Budget Bill. The committees are interested in the status of filling the vacant positions and request the Office of the Secretary of State to submit a report providing an update on recruitment and hiring for the positions, including the status of reclassifying the Assistant Secretary of State for Charities and Legal Services position.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the status of vacant positions	Secretary of State	August 1, 2024

D21
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

Budget Amendments

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of the general fund appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) submits a report to the budget committees by November 1, 2024, regarding Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards and funding. The report shall include:

- (1) each grant award made on July 1, 2024, for the fiscal 2025 awards, including the grant number, implementing agency, project title, start date, end date, amount of award, whether the grant is supported with general funds or federal VOCA funds, jurisdiction of implementation, and a brief description/abstract of the grant;
- (2) the total amount of grants awarded from general funds and federal VOCA funds on July 1, 2024;
- (3) the amount of unexpended funds for each open three-year VOCA grant and the reason funds are unexpended, including whether the funds are being held in reserve for future grants;
- (4) for the federal fiscal 2020 and 2021 three-year funding cycles, an identification of the respective amount of funds expended for the purpose of direct provision of services, administration, and that which went unobligated; and
- (5) a comparison of aggregate-level performance measures or outcome measures of the VOCA program for fiscal 2018 through 2024 or as many recent years that GOCPP is able to provide.

In addition to the report submission, data shall be provided in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose 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.

Explanation: The VOCA grant program is a major source of funding to victim services providers in the State. Chapters 625 and 626 of 2023 require that adequate general funds be provided in the budget so that \$60.0 million is available for the program each year beginning in fiscal 2025. This language restricts \$500,000 pending the submission of information related to

D21

VOCA awards and funding in fiscal 2025. For each open three-year grant cycle (federal fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024), GOCPP is required to include the amount of currently unexpended funds, the reason these funds remain unspent, and whether they will be held in reserve. The report is also required to provide further detail regarding the expenditure of funds for the two most recently completed funding cycles – federal fiscal 2020 and 2021. Finally, the report is required to provide a comparison of the program’s aggregate outcomes or performance measures in recent fiscal years.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual VOCA report	GOCPP	November 1, 2024

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 16 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-170,947	GF
Total Change	-170,947	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	71.00	71.00		0.00
General Fund	42,655,456	42,484,509	-170,947	
Special Fund	21,618,242	21,618,242	0	
Federal Fund	40,718,612	40,718,612	0	
Total Funds	104,992,310	104,821,363	-170,947	

Committee Narrative

Report on Invoice and Payment Methodology: The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) is a grant administering agency and funded over 900 subgrants during fiscal 2023. The committees believe there may be opportunities to improve the efficiency of the agency’s grant making processes, saving time and money for the agency and its grantees. It is the intent of the committees that GOCPP perform a systematic review of its invoice and payment methodologies. In addition, the committees request that GOCPP submit a report on any improvements made as a result of the review. The report should also identify any legal or regulatory obstacles or any resources needed by the agency to address identified flaws.

D21

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on invoice and payment methodology	GOCPP	October 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

D21A01.02 Local Law Enforcement Grants

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) may not distribute \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Baltimore City Safe Streets grant funding until evidence that a site director has been hired for the Belair-Edison site and a staffing plan for the site is submitted to GOCPP by the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: The fiscal 2025 allowance includes a grant to Baltimore City for its Safe Streets program. This language requires that a portion of the grant be distributed only after evidence that a site director has been hired for the Belair-Edison site and a staffing plan for the site has been submitted to GOCPP by the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

D21A01.03 State Aid for Police Protection

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) may not distribute a law enforcement agency’s share of \$5,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the State Aid for Police Protection enhancement funding until the law enforcement agency attests to GOCPP that employees have completed training on juvenile interrogation requirements.

Explanation: The fiscal 2025 allowance includes enhanced public safety aid through the State Aid for Police Protection Program (SAPP). This language requires that a portion of enhanced SAPP funding be distributed to law enforcement agencies only after agencies attest that their employees have completed training on juvenile interrogation requirements.

D21

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the general fund appropriation for State Aid for Police Protection enhancement funding to the level provided in fiscal 2023 and 2024.	-5,000,000	GF
Total Change	-5,000,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	126,382,798	121,382,798	-5,000,000	
Total Funds	126,382,798	121,382,798	-5,000,000	

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

D21A03.01 Victim Services Unit

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

. provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may not be expended until the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy submits the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Fiscal 2024 Annual Report to the budget committees. 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: Though the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) is required to submit this report on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) and fund each year, no due date is prescribed in existing statute.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CICB Fiscal 2024 Annual Report	GOCPP	November 1, 2024

D22
Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture

Budget Amendments

General Administration

D22A01.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for increased health insurance costs for new positions as a technical correction. These expenditures are double budgeted due to funding already being budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-28,622	GF
 Total Change	 -28,622	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	11.00	11.00		0.00
General Fund	1,616,421	1,587,799	-28,622	
Special Fund	13,000	13,000	0	
Total Funds	1,629,421	1,600,799	-28,622	

D38I01
State Board of Elections

Committee Narrative

D38I01.03 Major Information Technology Development Projects

Quarterly Reports on all Major Information Technology Development Programs (MITDP): The State Board of Elections (SBE) is currently implementing three MITDPs for a Pollbook system replacement, new voting system, and a new Campaign Reporting Information System. The committees remain interested in monitoring the progress of SBE’s implementation of the MITDPs. The committees request that SBE submit quarterly reports on all MITDP activities and expenditures separately for each of the three projects. Each report should include for each project the following:

- a description of activities undertaken in the quarter, complete with dates identifying whether project milestones were achieved or if delays were experienced, and an assessment of the resulting effect that any delays experienced in the quarter have on the project’s overall timeline;
- actual project spending in each month of the quarter;
- an assessment of future risks to the project’s timeline and how SBE plans to mitigate those risks.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly report on all MITDPs	SBE	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025

D50H01
Military Department

Committee Narrative

D50H01.05 State Operations

Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program Participation: The Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program was launched on November 1, 2023. The committees are interested in better understanding the participation of the program. The committees request that the Military Department submit a report on program implementation, program participation including the participation rate, and average grant amounts separately for fiscal 2024 and 2025 year to date. In addition, the report should include information about how the department plans to increase program participation.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program participation	Military Department	December 31, 2024

Freestate ChalleNGe Academy (FCA) Staffing Requirements: FCA is a State-run 22-week residential program for 16- to 18-year-olds who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. Academic trainings and instructions are the responsibility of the teaching staff and occur predominately in a classroom setting. It is followed by 12-month post-residential intervention phase where students are assisted by at least 1 trained mentor from the community for further development. The committees are interested in understanding the status of FCA’s teaching staff and mentors and its future staffing requirement. The committees request that the Military Department submit a report on FCA’s teaching staff and mentors including its long term staffing plan highlighting strategies to hire and retain staff. In addition, the report should include information on the status of FCA staff who were reallocated during fiscal 2020 and early fiscal 2021 to support pandemic relief measures.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on FCA staffing status and long-term staffing plan.	Military Department	October 1, 2024

D52
Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Committee Narrative

D52A01.01 Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund: The committees are interested in the ongoing funding structure planned for the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (RMRLF). The committees are also concerned about how local project funding applications are submitted and approved by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). Therefore, the committees request that MDEM submit an update on the status of the RMRLF, including:

- the status of Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act and any other funding contributing to the RMRLF along with the balance of the RMRLF;
- descriptions of activities and communications at and between MDEM and local emergency management departments regarding funding opportunities;
- a list of project funding applications submitted for the next round of STORM Act funding, including total estimated cost and amounts requested for each project and by jurisdiction; and
- the special fund revenue and repayment schedules associated with existing loans made through the RMRLF.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the RMRLF	MDEM	December 1, 2024

State and Local Cybersecurity Efforts: The committees are interested in the grant allocation schedule, funding availability, and local application process for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). As of January 2024, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) expects to open the application process in February 2024 and issue notices of award in May 2024. The committees request that MDEM submit a report providing an update on the status of the SLCGP grant allocation, showing federal and general fund allocations separately, including:

- SLCGP grants awarded by jurisdiction and remaining unallocated balance;
- nonfederal match expenditures by use;
- descriptions of requested projects and requested funding amounts;

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- a plan for use of remaining unallocated funds in fiscal 2025; and
- a description of the need for further State-match funding beyond fiscal 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of the SLCGP and Local Cybersecurity Support Fund	MDEM	November 1, 2024

D55P00
Department of Veteran Affairs

Committee Narrative

D55P00.05 Veterans Home Program

Quarterly Reports on Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) Facility Operations, Staffing, and Federal Ratings: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) oversees the operation of CHVH, the only assisted-living and skilled-nursing care for veterans and their spouses in the State. The committees are interested in how the new management contractor operates CHVH and its efforts on increasing staffing and residency numbers. Additionally, the committees are concerned with the low ratings from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) surrounding nursing home facility performance. The committees request that MDVA submit quarterly reports in collaboration with the CHVH contractor on the progress of CHVH’s operations, census numbers, staffing levels, efforts to increase census and staffing numbers, the number of resident complaints and resident complaints by type of complaint, as well as any report, rating, or fine from CMS. In each quarterly report, the report should note the period covered by the data and corresponding dates.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Request on status of CHVH operations, staffing, and federal ratings	MDVA	July 1, 2024 October 1, 2024 January 1, 2025 April 1, 2025

E00A
Comptroller of Maryland

Committee Narrative

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

E00A01.01 Executive Direction

Performance Measures for Tax Filing by Tax Year: Each year, the Comptroller submits data on electronic and paper tax filing volume and timeliness in its Managing for Results (MFR) performance submission. The Comptroller has historically reported this data on a fiscal year basis but reported that timeframe can distort taxpayer and Comptroller activity that is based on the tax year cycle. For the fiscal 2026 MFR submission, the committees request that the Comptroller submit performance data related to tax filings on a tax year basis and on a fiscal year basis separately to allow comparison to prior years with the fiscal 2026 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR tax filing data on a tax year and fiscal year basis	Comptroller of Maryland	With submission of the fiscal 2026 budget

Five-year Staffing and Technology Resources Plan and Resulting Revenue Collections: The Comptroller reported in February 2024 that there is approximately \$3 billion in outstanding tax liabilities for individual income taxes that are known and collectible. There is a further estimated \$3 billion in unassessed and unpaid taxes from underreporting of income. While additional positions and funding for technology were provided in fiscal 2024 and 2025, the Comptroller reports that more staff and funding for technology are needed to efficiently work toward closing the tax gap. However, the Comptroller indicates that hiring and onboarding must be staggered to match the capacity of the human resource team to process new hires and coordinate training. The addition of new technology may also require time for the procurement process, incorporating the technology into operational plans and training staff in its use. The committees are interested in better understanding revenue collection capacity per staff member and technology resources. The committees request that the Comptroller submit a report providing a five-year plan and forecast of revenue collection and the closing of the tax gap, specifying additional staff and technology needs. The report should include:

- the number of additional positions needed each year, along with position descriptions;
- descriptions of new technology resources that would contribute to revenue collection;
- a schedule for acquiring and implementing the new technology resources listed; and
- a forecast of additional tax revenue that would be collected each year due to the proposed additional staff and technology resources.

E00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Proposed staffing and technology resources plan and resulting revenues	Comptroller	August 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

COMPLIANCE DIVISION

E00A05.01 Compliance Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for increased health insurance costs as a technical correction. These expenditures are double budgeted as funding is already budgeted in the Statewide Account within the Department of Budget and Management for this purpose. The Comptroller is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs within the Comptroller of Maryland.	-1,037,484 GF -157,991 SF	
 Total Change	 -1,195,475	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	298.80	298.80		0.00
General Fund	25,671,571	24,634,087	-1,037,484	
Special Fund	6,992,065	6,834,074	-157,991	
Total Funds	32,663,636	31,468,161	-1,195,475	

E17
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission

Committee Narrative

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND CANNABIS COMMISSION

E17A01.01 Administration and Enforcement

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Cannabis Violations: As of fiscal 2024 and the Cannabis Reform Act (Chapters 254 and 255) of 2023, the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) now carries out inspections of retail businesses selling cannabis products to identify violations of licensing and registration laws for cannabis business in Maryland. The existing MFR measures include indicators for the number of tobacco and alcohol retailer inspections and violations of law found by ATCC agents in the given fiscal year. While ATCC has added a MFR measure for the number of unlicensed cannabis inspections, no measures were added as indicators for violations found. The inclusion of such measures would be useful for the General Assembly and the public as one indicator of the level of illegal cannabis sale and use taking place in the State. The committees request that ATCC include additional measures related to enforcement, consistent with those reported for tobacco and alcohol, in the MFR submission with the fiscal 2026 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR measures for cannabis violations	ATCC	With submission of the fiscal 2026 budget

E50C
State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Budget Amendments

E50C00.01 Office of the Director

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

. provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Office of the Director may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation submits two reports to the budget committees on the status of vacancies within the Real Property Valuation Program. Each report shall include the following information on the two quarters immediately preceding the due date:

- (1) the number of employees in the program that have left State service (by employee class title and jurisdiction);
- (2) the number of new hires (by employee class title and jurisdiction);
- (3) the number of positions posted;
- (4) the number of qualifying applicants received in response to each posting;
- (5) the length of time from the posting of each position to the acceptance of an offer of employment;
- (6) the amount of time it takes for the average hire to finish the training and probationary period;
- (7) the average and median salaries for listed positions; and
- (8) average and median salaries for comparable positions in surrounding states.

The first report shall be submitted by July 15, 2024, and the second report shall be submitted by December 15, 2024. The funds may be released in \$25,000 increments following the submission of each report. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of each 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 reports are not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Concerns regarding staffing levels in the Real Property Valuation program have been ongoing for several years. This language restricts funds budgeted for administrative purposes until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) submits two reports with data and status updates related to vacancies within the Real Property Valuation program.

E50C

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status updates on staffing in the Real Property Valuation Program	SDAT	July 15, 2024 December 15, 2024

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Office of the Director may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) submits two reports on the status of the Cloud Revenue Integrated System development project and cybersecurity needs at SDAT. Each report shall include:

- (1) a description of project milestones achieved, remaining milestones, and the overall project schedule;
- (2) the number of vacancies among staff for the project and how long those positions have been vacant;
- (3) a description of actions taken by SDAT to fill vacancies specified above;
- (4) a discussion of how any vacancies among staff for the project have affected project progression; and
- (5) an update on the status of cybersecurity operations, information technology staffing, and efforts to consult and collaborate with the Department of Information Technology to meet cybersecurity needs at SDAT.

The first report shall be submitted by July 15, 2024, and the second report shall be submitted by December 15, 2024. The funds may be released in \$25,000 increments following the submission of each report. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of each 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 reports are not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: There have been ongoing concerns about information technology staffing and delays in the Cloud Revenue Integrated System (CRIS) development project. Additionally, SDAT indicated a concern about a lack of in-house cybersecurity staff and the intention to work with the Department of Information Technology to address unmet cybersecurity needs at SDAT. This language restricts funds budgeted for administrative purposes until SDAT submits two reports updating the budget committees on the status of the CRIS project and cybersecurity needs at SDAT.

E50C

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CRIS status and cybersecurity report	SDAT	July 15, 2024 December 15, 2024

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

~~Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) submits a report to the budget committees on the property assessment notice mailing error that occurred in December 2023 and on management of contracts moving forward. The report shall include:~~

- ~~(1) how the mailing error occurred;~~
- ~~(2) the status of corrective actions taken to send out delayed notices and recover any potential losses in county and State revenue; and~~
- ~~(3) how SDAT will manage contractor relations and oversight to safeguard against errors in the future.~~

~~The report shall be submitted by July 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.~~

~~Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) submits a report to the budget committees on the property assessment notice mailing error that occurred in December 2023, on the handling of any legal consequences of the error, and on management of contracts moving forward. The report shall include:~~

- ~~(1) a description of how the mailing error occurred, including the timeline for mailing notices and procedures that were delayed;~~
- ~~(2) the total number of mailings missed;~~
- ~~(3) updated estimates for total revenue by local jurisdiction that would not be collected due to the mailing error;~~
- ~~(4) information regarding the vendor responsible for processing the mailings, including a description of the vendor's process for mailing out the notices;~~
- ~~(5) the cost of the contract each year since the initial agreement with this vendor and total funding paid to the vendor;~~

E50C

- (6) the length of the contract term with the vendor and the date that the contract terminates;
- (7) SDAT's plan for resolving the mailing error, including a timeline for resolution and the resources and staff needed for this purpose;
- (8) a description of how the assessor shortage contributed to the mailing error;
- (9) SDAT's plan for managing contractor relations and oversight to safeguard against errors in the future;
- (10) a description of legal ramifications from the mailing error, including potential lawsuits and taxpayer refusal to pay the property tax due to late notice of assessed property value; and
- (11) SDAT's plan for responding to resulting legal ramifications.

The report shall be submitted by July 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: Property assessment notices are statutorily required to be mailed to property owners in December of each year. The notice provides an updated property value per the most recent assessment, a schedule for phase-in of the newly assessed value over three years, and information on how the property owner may appeal the proposed value within 45 days of the notice. After the scheduled due date of assessment appeals in February 2024, the budget committees became aware of an error in the December 2023 mailing of assessment notices. Over 100,000 property owners did not receive the required notice at the end of December 2023, representing a total difference in property tax revenue of approximately \$151.6 million to counties and \$18.4 million to the State. This language restricts funding for administration until SDAT submits a report on the reasons for and resolution of the property assessment notice mailing error and on management of contracts moving forward.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on property assessment mailing error and contract management	SDAT	July 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

H00
Department of General Services

Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

H00A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Department of General Services Office of State Procurement (OSP) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$100,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) OSP has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2024; and
- (2) 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.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee 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.

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

H00

Committee Narrative

Status of State Center Relocation: The Department of General Services (DGS) is in the process of relocating various State agencies out of State Center and into leased space in Baltimore City. The State also voided a public-private partnership agreement, which resulted in litigation. The committees request that DGS submit a report on the status of moves and new site locations for each agency moving out of the complex, the status of litigation, and the uses and timing of State Center funds appropriated into the Dedicated Purpose Account to support State agency moves and demolition.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
State Center status report	DGS	July 15, 2024 December 15, 2024

Q00A
Administration and Offices
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

Q00A01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a written plan to comply with the Public Information Act (PIA). The written plan shall include a recent history of actions taken to resolve cases brought before the Maryland PIA Compliance Board. The written plan shall include detailed descriptions of objectives that will bring the department into compliance with the PIA. The written plan shall include objectives that address training and education of staff, systemic sources of nonresponding to requests or wrongful denial of records, regulatory changes needed, ways that the department can proactively share information with the public to preempt the need for a PIA request, and other challenges to complying with the law. The written plan shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than July 1, 2024. 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 PIA allows citizens to access public records that pose no public interest to withhold. The Maryland PIA Compliance Board was first established in calendar 2015 to decide on unreasonable fees but was expanded effective July 1, 2022, to now resolve and review complaints that a custodian wrongfully denied inspection of public records; a custodian charged an unreasonable fee higher than \$350 for public records; a custodian failed to respond to a request for public records; and/ or a PIA applicant's request is "frivolous, vexatious, or in bad faith." This board only hears cases that were first mediated through the Public Access Ombudsman process but remained unresolved. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is the only State agency to have multiple cases of nonresponding to requests and wrongful denial of records. Since the expansion of the board, DPSCS has been ruled against in all six cases decided so far with rulings in three cases to waive fees. The budget committees are concerned with the lack of transparency and that citizens must go to such great lengths to obtain information that belongs to the public. This action requires a written plan to comply with the PIA, including plans to train and educate staff with regard to the law, plans to prevent future cases from being brought before the Maryland PIA Compliance Board, and plans to ensure appropriate records are reviewable.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Written plan for PIA compliance	DPSCS	July 1, 2024

Q00A

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended for that purpose until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report on the development of apprenticeship programs to address labor shortages. The report shall detail all efforts by the department to create internal and external apprenticeship pathways, including specific milestones that have already been achieved and milestones that will be achieved, along with dates and expected deadlines. The report shall identify risk factors that may delay or prevent the development of departmental apprenticeship programs and the resources needed to support them. The report shall identify the potential impact of youth and adult apprenticeship pathways on existing labor shortages. The report shall also discuss the collaboration between DPSCS, any exclusive bargaining representatives of the employees, and the Department of Budget and Management, and the Maryland Department of Labor on public safety apprenticeships. The report shall be submitted by August 10, 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: While most positions within DPSCS are not typically entered into via apprenticeship, most are considered apprenticeable according to COMAR 09.12.43.04. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, there are over 250 apprenticeable occupations, and correctional officer (CO) is one such occupation. The typical apprenticeship for COs is one year and is slightly more common than health care and engineering apprenticeships but much less common than construction. ~~Other DPSCS classifications would also be apprenticeable, including food service workers, maintenance workers, and equipment specialists.~~ DPSCS has expressed interest in creating apprenticeship programs and worked with the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Department of Labor on developing such programs. *DPSCS must also negotiate apprenticeship programs with any exclusive bargaining representatives.* While some progress has been reported on adult apprenticeships for existing employees, the budget committees are concerned that progress is too slow, *employee unions have not been engaged as required*, and limited to make the intended impact on critical labor shortages. This language requires a more detailed overview of apprenticeship usage within DPSCS and the plans for using apprenticeship pathways to mitigate labor shortages.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Public safety apprenticeship	DPSCS	August 10, 2024

Amendment No. _____

Q00A

Committee Narrative

Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) Report: The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submit a report by December 1, 2024, on the following items:

- annual updates on the number of offenders petitioning and approved for the JRA provisions including, but not limited to, administrative release, medical/geriatric parole, certificates of rehabilitation, and graduated sanctions;
- the number of offenders affected by the JRA diminution and earned compliance credit rules; and
- annual JRA cost savings updates along with any efforts/initiatives to increase savings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
JRA report	DPSCS	December 1, 2024

Report on Recidivism: The committees are interested in the impact of incarceration on the future outcomes of returning offenders. The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submit a report by November 15, 2024, on the following:

- three-year recidivism numbers for the fiscal 2016 through 2021 release cohorts; and
- an analysis of recent recidivism trends, including a comparison to past years and a comparison to other states.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Recidivism report	DPSCS	November 15, 2024

Correctional Program Participation Measures: The committees are concerned that there is little information available to track the participation of offenders in the various programs, services, and opportunities available to them. The availability of programs and services was reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was little opportunity for the budget committees to review the effect this had on offender rehabilitative efforts. The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) add data tables to the department's annual Managing for Results submission starting with the fiscal 2026 allowance that provide annual counts of programming participants by primary assignment and facility; counts of participants by secondary, tertiary, or subsequent programming assignments by facility; and annual counts of nonparticipants by facility.

Q00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Correctional program participation measures	DPSCS	With the submission of the fiscal 2026 allowance and annually thereafter

Medical Contract Award Notification: The committees are concerned about the ongoing efforts to procure new medical and mental health care contracts for the separate incarcerated and pretrial populations in Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) custody. The incumbent medical contract has had several issues before, during, and following the COVID-19 emergency period. The budget committees request that DPSCS submit a report notifying the budget committees at least 7 days prior to presenting a contract to the Board of Public Works (BPW) for correctional or pretrial medical and mental health services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Correctional medical and mental health care contract award notification	DPSCS	7 days prior to BPW presentation of the correctional medical contract.
Pretrial medical and mental health care contract award notification	DPSCS	7 days prior to BPW presentation of the pretrial medical contract.

Q00B
Corrections
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

DIVISION OF CORRECTION – HEADQUARTERS

Q00B01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of General Administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits the second of four quarterly hiring and attrition reports to the budget committees. The reports shall include a breakdown of all hires and separations for each of the three months in question by category of employee (correctional officer, community supervision agent, or administrative employee) and by reason for separation. The report shall also include narrative summarizing all hiring events and changes to the hiring process that occurred during the quarter; the quantity, type, and cost of bonuses disbursed; as well as overall applications received, tested, and interviewed. The first quarterly report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than October 25, 2024, and the second report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than January 25, 2025. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second quarterly 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: Correctional officer hiring within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) has declined again. The quarterly reports requested in fiscal 2025 will continue the cooperation between DPSCS and the budget committees to track all departmental hiring and the success of recent staffing initiatives.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly hiring and attrition reports	DPSCS	October 25, 2024 January 25, 2025 April 25, 2025 July 12, 2025

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of overtime earnings may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report on a plan to eliminate the use of mandatory overtime. The report scope shall include the entire department. The report shall first include a detailed strategic plan to eliminate the need for

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mandatory overtime, including the identification of staffing levels that the department must achieve at each facility so that voluntary overtime levels are sufficient to cover all staffing needs. The plan shall identify the amount of mandatory overtime use by reason and the number of staff that would need to be hired to satisfy the overtime needs in each category. The plan shall justify these levels using a National Institute of Corrections approved staffing matrix. The plan shall identify how the department prioritizes overtime for qualified officers with low pay rates to minimize unnecessary expenses. In addition to the strategic plan, the report shall also include:

- (1) a breakdown of total correctional officer (CO) overtime hours worked and expenses paid per facility per pay period from July 2023 to October 2024, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual;
- (2) a breakdown of mandatory CO overtime hours worked and expenses paid per facility per pay period from July 2023 to October 2024, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual; and
- (3) an update on the U.S. Department of Labor investigation into overtime pay errors, including the number of individuals affected, the time frame affected, and the total and median amounts required to be paid.

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: Excessive overtime has become a drain on human resources in the department and led to a riskier work environment for State employees, offenders, and volunteers. The amounts have trended steeply since the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) has struggled to fill CO positions. Assaults have also been elevated, particularly in detention facilities. There have also been systemic errors in accounting for overtime that led to a now-concluded U.S. Department of Labor investigation into unpaid wages. The investigation resulted in retroactive payments of \$23.2 million in fiscal 2023 and 2024. The budget committees are deeply troubled by the continuing trends of staffing decline and growth of overtime. This language restricts overtime funding in the fiscal 2025 budget for the Division of Correction – Headquarters until a report is submitted detailing overtime trends, efforts to reduce overtime, and a plan to eliminate mandatory overtime use.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Overtime strategic plan	DPSCS	November 1, 2024

Q00B

Committee Narrative

Racial Discrimination and Retaliation: The committees are deeply troubled by the allegations and evidence contained within an ongoing U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland civil lawsuit related to an alleged culture of racial discrimination and retaliation that exists at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC) in Hagerstown. Plaintiffs claim that they and other similarly situated individuals received unequal and harsher discipline compared to similarly situated Caucasian employees and that their rights to equal opportunity under the law were violated in a conspiratorial manner based on race. While the committees recognize the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is limited in its ability to share information about ongoing legal cases, the committees would like more information on what the department is doing to prevent discrimination, racial retaliation, or criminal conspiracies within the ranks of the department's correctional officers. The committees request the department submit a report, due July 15, 2024, providing fiscal 2023 and 2024 de-identified data on the following:

- rank of MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- promotions, raises, and bonuses for MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- overtime opportunities for MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- disciplinary actions taken against MCTC employees disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- complaints filed against MCTC employees related to racial discrimination and disciplinary retaliation disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- employee turnover at MCTC disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- wait times for MCTC officers to take promotional tests disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- policies and procedures aimed at preventing racial discrimination in hiring, promotion, and disciplinary actions;
- training materials provided to employees and supervisors and training data regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- an expert legal evaluation of these policies, procedures, and trainings for possible entry points for implicit or explicit racial biases;
- redacted copies of internal communications related to issues of diversity and racial discrimination; and

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- a list and short description of investigations conducted by internal DPSCS investigators, other local investigators, or federal investigators into DPSCS racial discrimination in employment for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Racial discrimination and retaliation	DPSCS	July 15, 2024

Reentry Passport Program Rollout: The committees are concerned with the slow rollout of the Reentry Passport program. Previous expectations set the passport to be available for all returning citizens by fall 2023. However, the program remains in the pilot phase, and more work is needed to be done by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) so that all returning citizens will have access to this necessary service moving forward. The Reentry Passport is expected to provide all previously incarcerated individuals with access to an online portal after release where they can store and retrieve critical documents like their Social Security card or their birth certificate. Improving an individual's access to critical documents helps to ensure a successful reentry process. The committees request that DPSCS submit a report by October 1, 2024, on the Reentry Passport program rollout. The report should document the progress of rolling out the existing pilot and future plans to fully roll out the program, including:

- the number of individuals who already have Reentry Passport accounts;
- the dates that those individuals gained access to the passport;
- the list of functional passport functions;
- the list of nonfunctional/upcoming passport functions;
- the exact timeline by which all returning citizens will be able to access the passport;
- historic levels of returning citizens monthly;
- projected levels of returning citizens that will require new access to the passport monthly;
- projected levels of returning citizens that will require ongoing access to the passport monthly;
- the list of documents that must be uploaded;
- the list of documents that may be uploaded;

Q00B

- the process by which documents are uploaded, and by whom;
- the process by which returning citizens access documents;
- ways that the Maryland Total Human-services Integrated Network supports the initiative;
- challenges to full rollout; and
- the potential impact on recidivism.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reentry Passport program rollout	DPSCS	October 1, 2024

Report on Treatment of Transgender Individuals: The committees have been concerned with reports that transgender individuals are subject to high rates of sexual abuse and violence and are placed into inappropriate housing assignments, such as unwarranted restrictive housing. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) should submit a report to the committees by October 1, 2024, in collaboration with experts, technical assistants, and transgender stakeholders. The report should also contain data for fiscal 2021 through 2024 on the following items:

- annual totals of transgender individuals in each DPSCS correctional facility by gender identity;
- annual totals of transgender individuals in each DPSCS correctional facility by housing placement category, including administrative segregation, disciplinary segregation, mental health unit, medical unit, dormitory, double cell, single cell, and all other housing placement categories, disaggregated by the gender of the housing placement and by the gender identity of the transgender individual;
- annual totals of transgender individuals placed in restrictive housing disaggregated by reason for placement into such housing;
- annual average and median length of time that transgender individuals are placed into restrictive housing overall and disaggregated by reason for placement into restrictive housing compared to cisgender peers for each DPSCS correctional facility;
- annual number of requests by transgender individuals to transfer housing assignments, disaggregated by type of housing transfer request (including but not limited to transfer to a different gendered unit or facility, transfer into or out of a medical or mental health unit or facility, or transfer into or out of restrictive confinement) and the outcomes of those requests;

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- annual number of housing placement assessments for transgender individuals pursuant to DPSCS Executive Directive OPS.131.0001;
- annual number of requests by transgender individuals to receive gender-affirming care and the outcomes of those requests disaggregated by type of medical care;
- annual number of requests by individuals identified as vulnerable under Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.41 and by transgender individuals for privacy in showers, bathrooms, and while changing clothing, and the outcomes of those requests;
- annual number of PREA complaints filed and investigated and the outcome for complaints made by transgender individuals compared to cisgender peers; and
- annual number of complaints received, number of complaints that were investigated, and outcomes of each complaint for each correctional facility regarding:
 - violence, harassment, sexual abuse, and discrimination against transgender individuals;
 - access to gender-affirming health care; and
 - access to gendered commissary items.

The committees further request that DPSCS provide all policies regarding transgender individuals and/or gender dysphoria, including but not limited to intake procedures, identification of transgender individuals, provision of gender-affirming health care, housing assignment, safety from violence and sexual abuse, and access to gendered commissary items. The department should identify a plan to fully comply with PREA Standard 115.42 and the challenges to ensuring compliance. Finally, the report should include an analysis of whether the above DPSCS policies are being implemented and followed at each correctional facility and an analysis of the education and training that DPSCS staff receive regarding LGBTQ+ individuals.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on transgender individuals	DPSCS	October 1, 2024

Q00B

Women’s Prerelease Programming: *The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) was required by the Corrections Services Article §§ 3-301 through 3-305 to operate a comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease unit for women by November 1, 2023. The committees note that DPSCS has been consistently delayed in meeting the statutory requirement to build a new, standalone, prerelease facility. While design for the new facility has been delayed, DPSCS is still required to provide evidence-based and gender-responsive services to incarcerated women in its custody and has reportedly begun to do so. However, the amount of information on the new programming is limited, and the committees seek further details into the department’s plans to comply with the comprehensive and gender-responsive programming requirements of the statute. The committees ask that DPSCS provide a report on the following information on the women’s prerelease unit at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women no later than July 1, 2024:*

- *an overview of the current prerelease program for women;*
- *goals and objectives;*
- *curriculum and activities, including particular attention to work release and job-related services;*
- *eligibility requirements;*
- *the number of applicants, individuals approved, individuals denied, current population, and average daily population for each month in fiscal 2024;*
- *resources dedicated to the program, including staff, funding, and facility space;*
- *a literature review of the program’s evidence-based practices for preparing women to reenter society;*
- *a plan to measure program effectiveness, including any outcomes or performance data that will be measured and reported;*
- *a summary of participant satisfaction and feedback on the program;*
- *an evaluation of the inclusivity and accessibility of the program for women with various backgrounds and needs; and*
- *implementation challenges and future steps for improvement or expansion within the existing facility during the delay in constructing the new facility.*

Q00B

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Prerelease programming for women</i>	<i>DPSCS</i>	<i>August 1, 2024</i>

Q00C
Community Supervision
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Committee Narrative

Q00C02.01 Division of Parole and Probation – Support Services

Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) Caseload Report: In recent fiscal years, DPP has been working to reduce supervision caseloads to a manageable level for its parole and probation agents. Caseload ratios increased by one case per agent in fiscal 2023. The committees are concerned not only with overall caseload ratios but also the distribution of cases by supervision level and inconsistencies between regions, offices, and individual agents. The committees are also concerned with the ongoing high levels of involvement by supervisees in homicides and nonfatal shootings, which increased approximately 1% in total from calendar 2022 to 2023. Supervisees suspected of homicides or nonfatal shootings increased in calendar 2023 from approximately 7% of supervisees to approximately 8% of supervisees. Those suspected of rape and firearm offenses also increased substantially in that period of time. The distribution of cases among agents and the methodology for deciding that distribution continues to be of interest to the committees. The committees request a report due by September 15, 2024, from DPP on the following:

- the exact breakdown of support staff and general supervision caseloads by office into DPP supervision levels for fiscal 2024;
- the exact breakdown of case closures by reason, region, and office;
- an examination of best practices for distributing caseload assignments to agents based on community supervision level in consultation with the American Parole and Probation Association and other leading community supervision organizations;
- the number of community supervision agents as distributed across several ranges of caseload size;
- the number of agents with caseloads higher than recommended based on American Parole and Probation Association standards for each agent’s specific caseload; and
- a description of strategies that DPP is using to reduce caseload ratios and prevent agents from taking on too many cases.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
DPP caseload report	DPP	September 15, 2024

Q00C

Report on Assessment Tools: The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) has begun the process of replacing the assessment tools used to classify offenders placed on community supervision and the role of these tools in case management. This issue is of particular concern with regard to maintaining proper caseloads for agents as well as providing agents with a reliable framework for addressing the individual needs of each offender. The committees request that DPP submit a report, due November 1, 2024, on the transition to new screening tools used in community supervision. The report should include the following:

- a description of the new tools and process;
- areas in the current process that represent improvements over the previous processes;
- the transition timeline;
- challenges to implementation;
- alternatives considered, including the reasons for deciding against alternatives; and
- an analysis of the reliability of the new screening tools to predict security risk and/or compliance with conditions of supervision.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on assessment tools	DPP	November 1, 2024

Q00G
Police and Correctional Training Commissions
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

Q00G00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report to the budget committees on specific timelines and spending amounts for the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) Strategic Plan for the MPTSC Fund. The report shall list all spending, revenues, and end-of-year balances for the MPTSC Fund since establishment, including projections for fiscal 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. The report shall include specific dates for making each expenditure, including the dates by which funds are expected to be encumbered and the dates by which implementation is expected to finish. The report shall identify risk factors for completing the work on time and the impact that delays might have on addressing gaps and deficiencies in training. The report shall identify how each expenditure is expected to further one or more of the commission’s Strategic Plan goals, objectives, or performance measures. The report shall also identify any changes to the Strategic Plan since the December 2023 report including any changes to incorporate Department of Legislative Services recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than August 1, 2024. 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: The MPTSC Fund receives \$2 million each year through special court fees and was established at the end of fiscal 2019 to provide a dedicated pool of resources to enhance the training of public safety officials in the State. Spending has moderately accelerated since establishment of the MPTSC Fund. However, the dedicated court fees remain annually underutilized. The fund balance grew to \$9.6 million by the outset of fiscal 2024. While the growing fund balance builds interest revenues each year, there is still concern that these dedicated resources remain underutilized. The department previously shared a strategic plan, but the plan lacked specific dates for each proposed project, and the strategic plan itself had several flaws in measuring success. The budget committees intend for the department to further refine its plans and provide the legislature with necessary details for effective oversight.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Police training fund expenditure dates	DPSCS	August 1, 2024

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Juvenile Services submits a report to the budget committees on the wait times that the youth it places experience before receiving a community-based placement, hospitalization, family home placement, or a non-community-based placement, including a breakdown of wait times by jurisdiction. Data should be provided for calendar 2024 and any previous years for which data is available. The report shall be submitted by January 15, 2025, 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 Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is the second largest youth-placing agency for youth who require an out-of-home placement (OOHP). DJS treats youth who are involved in Maryland’s juvenile justice system. During the 2023 session, the committees were concerned that youth may require treatment and must wait for services to be provided. The committees requested that DJS provide a report by January 1, 2024, on the wait times that the youth it places experience before receiving a community-based placement, hospitalization, family home placement, or a non-community-based placement, including a breakdown of wait times by jurisdiction. A report on this topic requested by the budget committees in the 2023 session was submitted on February 6, 2024, but did not contain all the requested information. Though the department currently provides the average daily population and average length of stay for its pending placement population through the annual publication of its Data Resource Guide, wait times are not available by placement type. Data should be provided for calendar 2024 and any previous years for which data is available.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OOHP wait times	DJS	January 15, 2025

V00A

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Juvenile Services submits a report to the budget committees containing its next facilities master plan, including a long-range plan for future capital projects. The report shall be submitted by December 31, 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 committees are interested in a comprehensive review of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) facility conditions and the needs of the detained and committed populations. Since the last facilities master plan (FMP) was created in 2015, its residential populations have decreased and many of the proposed detention and treatment projects did not receive capital funding.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the FMP	DJS	December 31, 2024

Committee Narrative

Report on Services for Youth in Alternatives to Detention (ATD): The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) provides several ATDs for youth including community detention with or without electronic/global positioning system (GPS) monitoring, evening reporting centers, the Pre-Adjudication Coordination and Transition Center, and shelter care. The committees are concerned that youth may be provided with an ATD – particularly community detention with electronic/GPS monitoring – and not receive other service or programming interventions from DJS. It is the intent of the committees that DJS provide a report on the services and programs that are currently offered to youth in each type of ATD and the department’s plan for extending additional services and programs to youths in an ATD. The report should include data on the utilization of services and programs by youths in an ATD as well as data on youth who reoffend during the pretrial release period. The report should identify the department’s recent expenditure on such services and programs as well as how funds provided to enhance the DJS services continuum would be used to extend additional services and programming and reduce the recidivism rate for youths during the pretrial release period.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on services for youth in ATDs	DJS	July 1, 2024

V00A

Report on the Thrive Academy: *The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) launched the Thrive Academy in Baltimore City and Baltimore County in September 2023 and in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties in January 2024. The Thrive Academy is a community-based gun violence prevention program and case management model. In the model, youth in need of services are identified, and DJS contracts with organizations in different regions to provide services. DJS identifies potential participants for the program by reviewing its information about youth who were in some way involved with DJS over the past few years and through conversations with law enforcement, community members, DJS staff, public defenders, and prosecutors. General fund support of the Thrive Academy and the model’s expansion to additional regions is provided in the department’s fiscal 2025 allowance. The committees request that DJS submit a comprehensive report on the operations of the Thrive Academy in its first year and the department’s plan of operations throughout fiscal 2025 by November 1, 2024. The report should include:*

- *a summary of operations during fiscal 2024 and 2025 as well as a summary of planned operations during fiscal 2025. The department should provide a list of organizations that it is partnering with to facilitate the Thrive Academy in fiscal 2024 and 2025 as well as identify the number of youths participating in each jurisdiction;*
- *a description of the associated expenses to the department, including if DJS has any personnel dedicated to supporting the Thrive Academy’s operations, and the cost of the program per youth;*
- *an identification of how the Thrive Academy is funded in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and a plan for how it may be funded in future fiscal years. DJS should also describe how the removal of federal American Rescue Plan Act funding may impact the Thrive Academy;*
- *an update on the progress that DJS has made on evaluating the Thrive Academy;*
- *any challenges that the department foresees associated with administering the Thrive Academy as well as any additional goals for the Thrive Academy that the department may have; and*
- *a description of how the department is using funding for the Enhance Services Continuum in fiscal 2025 to support youth who are not able to participate in the Thrive Academy.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
<i>Report on the Thrive Academy</i>	<i>DJS</i>	<i>November 1, 2024</i>

V00A

Report on Community Feedback for the Maryland Youth Residence Center (MYRC) Project:
The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) included a renovation and expansion project for the MYRC site in its 2024 Capital Improvement Program. This project would renovate a facility in Baltimore City and add a two-story addition to create a 24-bed hardware secure treatment facility for male youth. The committees request that DJS submit a report describing the efforts the department took to engage with the community on the MYRC project and summarizing the community feedback the department received by December 1, 2024.

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Report on community feedback for the MYRC project</i>	<i>DJS</i>	<i>December 1, 2024</i>

W00A
Department of State Police

Budget Amendments

W00A01.01 Office of the Superintendent

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the general fund appropriation to delete funds for the supplemental retirement account match, which is budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-15,000	GF
 Total Change	 -15,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	190.00	190.00		0.00
General Fund	46,857,010	46,842,010	-15,000	
Total Funds	46,857,010	46,842,010	-15,000	

W00A01.02 Field Operations Bureau

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the general fund appropriation to delete funds for the supplemental retirement account match, which is budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-26,000	GF
 Total Change	 -26,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	1,271.00	1,271.00		0.00
General Fund	181,126,578	181,100,578	-26,000	
Special Fund	94,819,946	94,819,946	0	
Total Funds	275,946,524	275,920,524	-26,000	

W00A

W00A01.03 Criminal Investigation Bureau

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 28 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-319,844	GF
2. Reduce the general fund appropriation to delete funds for the supplemental retirement account match, which is budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-39,000	GF
Total Change	-39,000	
	-358,844	

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	554.00	554.00		0.00
General Fund	117,084,958	117,045,958 116,726,114	-39,000 -358,844	
Federal Fund	1,075,000	1,075,000	0	
Total Funds	118,159,958	118,120,958 117,801,114	-39,000 -358,844	

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

Quarterly Report on Permitting Applications: The Licensing Division within the Department of State Police (DSP) administers provisions of State law and regulations related to the licensing and registration of firearms, handgun permits, security guards, and other licensing functions. The Public Safety Article establishes various requirements related to how quickly the division must turn around applications. The committees request that information on applications received and processing days needed for an application to receive a final disposition be submitted once per quarter on the following dates: July 1, 2024; October 1, 2024; January 1, 2025; and April 1, 2025.

W00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly report on permitting applications	DSP	July 1, 2024 October 1, 2024 January 1, 2025 April 1, 2025

Report on Forensic Laboratory Capacity and Expenditure: The Department of State Police (DSP) operates forensic laboratories and relies on the services of private and out-of-state laboratories. The committees request that DSP submit a report providing information on the cost of using State-owned laboratories compared with the cost of using those privately owned or out of State. The report should include data on the capacity of State-owned forensic laboratories as well as the department's demand for testing. DSP should include expenditure information related to the State-owned forensic laboratories for fiscal 2023 through 2025 and describe any changes to its laboratory capacity in the same period.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on forensic laboratory capacity and expenditure	DSP	July 1, 2024

W00A

Budget Amendments

W00A01.04 Support Services Bureau

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 6 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-74,570	GF
2. Reduce the general fund appropriation to delete funds for the supplemental retirement account match, which is budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-33,500	GF
 Total Change	 -33,500 -108,070	

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	487.00	487.00		0.00
General Fund	96,402,534	96,369,034 96,294,464	-33,500 -108,070	
Special Fund	45,261,372	45,261,372	0	
Federal Fund	9,094,660	9,094,660	0	
Total Funds	150,758,566	150,725,066 150,650,496	33,500 -108,070	

Amendment No. _____

Sections

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section 38 Uniform Crime Report

SECTION 38. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$250,000 of the general fund appropriation within the Department of State Police (DSP) may not be expended until DSP submits the Crime in Maryland, 2023 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to the budget committees. 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 the 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.

Further provided that, if DSP encounters difficulty obtaining, or validating the accuracy of, the necessary crime data by November 1, 2024, from local jurisdictions who provide the data for inclusion in the UCR, DSP shall notify the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). From each jurisdiction's third quarterly State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) disbursement, the office shall withhold a portion, totaling at least 15% but no more than 50%, of that jurisdiction's SAPP grant for fiscal 2025 upon receipt of notification from DSP. GOCPP shall withhold SAPP funds until such a time that the jurisdiction submits its crime data to DSP, and DSP verifies the accuracy of the data. DSP and GOCPP shall submit a report to the budget committees indicating any jurisdiction from which crime data was not received by November 1, 2024, and the amount of SAPP funding from each jurisdiction.

Explanation: The annual language was originally added because DSP had not been submitting its annual crime report in a timely manner due to issues related to receiving crime data from the local jurisdictions. Though data contributors were able to provide the department with 2021 and 2022 crime data on time, there were delays in compiling the 2021 and 2022 UCRs due to the inability for all contributors to submit data in compliance with the new federal reporting system.

This language withholds a portion of the general fund appropriation until the budget committees receive the 2023 UCR. The language also specifies that GOCPP, upon receipt of notification from DSP, must withhold a portion of a delinquent jurisdiction's SAPP grant until certain crime data is received by DSP. Finally, DSP and GOCPP must submit a report to the budget committees that includes information on any jurisdiction that did not report crime data by November 1, 2024, and the amount of SAPP funding that is withheld from each jurisdiction.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
2023 UCR data verification	DSP	November 1, 2024
2023 UCR	DSP	45 days prior to expenditure of funds