

**C80B00**  
**Office of the Public Defender**

**Budget Amendment**

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.

**C81C**  
**Office of the Attorney General**

**Committee Narrative**

**C81C00.01 Legal Counsel and Advice**

Adopt the following narrative:

**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 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.*

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

**K00A**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**Committee Narrative**

**MARYLAND PARK SERVICE**

**K00A04.01 Statewide Operations**

**Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan to Optimize Canada Geese Wintering:** The committees are concerned that the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary is not being managed to optimize its role as the wintering ground for the largest concentration of Canada geese on the Chesapeake Bay’s western shore, despite a summer 2023 agreement to develop a responsive management plan. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) develop and submit a management plan for the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary that optimizes the property’s role as a prime wintering ground for Canada geese. The plan is requested to be submitted by October 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary management plan to optimize Canada goose wintering	DNR	October 1, 2024

**Q00B**  
**Corrections**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**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;
- 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on treatment of transgender individuals	DPSCS	October 1, 2024

**U00A**  
**Department of the Environment**

**Committee Narrative**

**WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**

**U00A04.01 Water and Science Administration**

**Maryland State Certified Sod Standard Enforcement Report:** The committees are concerned that that not all development projects within the State are using Maryland State Certified sod for stormwater and sediment control stabilization as required by State law and the 2011 Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. It is the committees' understanding that the required use of Maryland State Certified sod was promulgated with the aim of upholding rigorous standards for soil and water health in our State and is a crucial aspect of environmental stewardship. Currently, enforcement efforts are fragmented between delegated and nondelegated jurisdictions, leading to inconsistencies and uncertainties in compliance. A number of development sites are presently using non-Maryland State Certified sod on their projects. Non-Maryland State Certified sod may not meet rigorous nutrient management requirements leading to additional pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) submit a report on actions taken and proposed to ensure consistent enforcement of the Maryland State Certified sod standard. The report shall include the efforts by MDE to educate inspectors, delegated local governments, and soil conservation district offices on the State requirements to utilize Maryland State Certified sod at all development sites in the State. MDE is requested to submit the report by December 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Mayland State Certified sod standard enforcement report	MDE	December 1, 2024