



Report of the
**Senate Budget and
Taxation Committee**
To the Maryland Senate

2024 SESSION

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

For further information concerning this document contact:

Library and Information Services
Office of Policy Analysis
Department of Legislative Services
90 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 • Washington Area: 301-970-5400
Other Areas: 1-800-492-7122, Extension 5400
TTY: 410-946-5401 • 301-970-5401
TTY users may also use the Maryland Relay Service
to contact the General Assembly.

Email: libr@mlis.state.md.us
Home Page: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

The Department of Legislative Services does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in the admission or access to its programs, services, or activities. The Department's Information Officer has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Requests for assistance should be directed to the Information Officer at the telephone numbers shown above.

General Assembly of Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

2024 Session Membership Roster

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair
Senator Cory V. McCray, Vice Chair

Senator Paul D. Corderman
Senator Sarah K. Elfreth
Senator J.B. Jennings
Senator Nancy J. King
Senator Jim Rosapepe

Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee

Senator Nancy J. King, Chair

Senator Jack Bailey
Senator Joanne C. Benson
Senator Paul D. Corderman

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Senator Cory V. McCray, Chair

Senator Shelly Hettleman
Senator J.B. Jennings
Senator Craig J. Zucker

Public Safety, Transportation, and the Environment Subcommittee

Senator Sarah K. Elfreth, Chair

Senator Michael A. Jackson
Senator Jim Rosapepe
Senator Johnny Ray Salling

Department of Legislative Services

Director, Office of Policy Analysis

Ryan Bishop

Coordinator, Fiscal and Policy Analysis

David C. Romans

Operating Budget Manager

Tonya D. Zimmerman

Capital Budget Managers

Emily R. Haskel

Matthew D. Klein

Information Systems Support

Patrick S. Frank

Jason A. Kramer

Quality Control Editor

Maureen R. Merzlake

Committee Report Coordinator

Andrew D. Gray

Committee Staff

Phillip S. Anthony

Erika S. Schissler

Daneen Banks

Budget Subcommittee Coordinators

Jacob C. Cash

Naomi Komuro

Laura H. Hyde

Madelyn C. Miller

Jason Kramer

Yashodhara Rai

Other Analysts

Nathaly Andrade

Kelly K. Norton

Sara J. Baker

Jacob L. Pollicove

Anne W. Braun

Samuel M. Quist

Carrie Cook

Micah Richards

Patrick S. Frank

Samantha M. Tapia

Victoria Martinez

Elizabeth Waibel

Steven D. McCulloch

Support Staff

Katherine K. Hayward, Budget Support Coordinator

Claire H. Austin-Washburn

Brett A. Ogden

Katylee M. Cannon

Dominic Sanelli

Callie Ingwersen

Department of Legislative Services

2024 Budget Assignments

Nathaly Andrade

Department of Disabilities
Department of Human Services
Administration
Child Support Administration
Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Maryland State Department of Education
Early Childhood Development
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Sara J. Baker

Maryland Higher Education Commission
University System of Maryland
Frostburg State University
Office
Overview
Salisbury University
Towson University
University of Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
University of Maryland, College Park Campus

Anne W. Braun

Maryland Department of Health
Health Regulatory Commissions
Medical Care Programs Administration
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

Jacob C. Cash

Department of Budget and Management
Secretary
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Administration and Offices
Community Supervision
Corrections
Division of Pretrial Detention
Overview
Police and Correctional Training Commissions

Carrie Cook	Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority Department of Planning Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration Maryland Transit Administration Motor Vehicle Administration Maryland Environmental Service Maryland Transportation Authority
Patrick S. Frank	Maryland Stadium Authority Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority New Budget System Public Debt
Andrew D. Gray	Adds Coordinator Chesapeake Bay Overview Department of Agriculture Department of Natural Resources Department of the Environment
Emily R. Haskel	Capital Fiscal Briefing Department of Housing and Community Development Maryland Department of Labor
Laura H. Hyde	Accountability Implementation Board Interagency Commission on School Construction Maryland School for the Deaf Maryland State Library Agency Maryland State Department of Education Aid to Education Funding for Educational Organization Headquarters (Center for School Safety Included)
Naomi Komuro	Department of Aging Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems Maryland Department of Health Administration Behavioral Health Administration Overview Public Health Administration
Jason A. Kramer	Department of Budget and Management – Personnel Maryland Supplemental Retirement Plans State Reserve Fund State Retirement Agency

Victoria Martinez

Executive Department
Governor
Maryland Cannabis Administration
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange
Maryland Department of Health
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Health Professional Boards and Commissions
Office of Health Care Quality

Steven D. McCulloch

General Assembly of Maryland
Maryland Department of Transportation
Debt Service Requirements
Maryland Port Administration
Overview
State Highway Administration
The Secretary's Office
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration

Madelyn C. Miller

Department of Juvenile Services
Department of Service and Civic Innovation
Department of State Police
Governor's Office for Children
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund

Kelly K. Norton

Aid to Community Colleges
Baltimore City Community College
Higher Education Overview
Morgan State University
St. Mary's College of Maryland
University System of Maryland
Bowie State University
Coppin State University
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Maryland Global Campus

Jacob L. Pollicove

Historic St. Mary's City Commission
Judiciary
Maryland Tax Court
Office of Administrative Hearings
Office of the Attorney General
Office of the Public Defender
Office of the State Prosecutor
State Archives

Samuel M. Quist

Department of Human Services
Office of Home Energy Programs
Overview
Social Services Administration
Maryland Energy Administration
Office of People’s Counsel
Public Service Commission

Yashodhara Rai

Department of Information Technology
Department of Veterans Affairs
Executive Dept
Boards, Commissions, and Offices
Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
Military Department
Payments to Civil Divisions of the State
State Board of Elections

Micah Richards

Board of Public Works
Maryland African American Museum Corporation
Maryland Higher Education Commission
Student Financial Assistance
Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission
Secretary of State
State Treasurer

Samantha M. Tapia

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission
Comptroller of Maryland
Department of General Services
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund
Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Maryland Insurance Administration
Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board
State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Elizabeth Waibel

Department of Commerce
Maryland Economic Development Corporation
Maryland Technology Development Corporation
Subsequent Injury Fund
Uninsured Employers’ Fund
West North Avenue Development Authority
Workers’ Compensation Commission

Tonya D. Zimmerman

Department of Human Services
Family Investment Administration

Contents

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee – Reductions.....		xv
 Legislative and Judicial		
Payments to Civil Divisions of the State.....	A15O00	1
Judiciary	C00A00	2
Office of the Public Defender	C80B00	6
Office of the Attorney General	C81C	7
Public Service Commission	C90G00	8
Uninsured Employers’ Fund	C96J0	9
 Executive and Administrative Control		
Board of Public Works.....	D05E01	11
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....	D11A0401	12
Department of Disabilities	D12A02	13
Maryland Energy Administration	D13A13	14
Boards, Commissions, and Offices	D15A05	16
Secretary of State	D16A06	17
Historic St. Mary’s City Commission.....	D17B0151	18
Governor’s Office for Children.....	D18A	19
Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.....	D21	20
Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture.....	D22	25
Capital Appropriation – Interagency Commission on School Construction ..	D25E	26
Interagency Commission on School Construction.....	D25	27
Department of Aging.....	D26A07	28
Maryland Commission on Civil Rights	D27L00	30
Maryland Stadium Authority	D28A03	34
Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority.....	D29	31
State Board of Elections.....	D38I01	32
Department of Planning	D40W01	33
Military Department.....	D50H01	34
Maryland Department of Emergency Management.....	D52	35
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems	D53T00	37
Department of Veterans Affairs	D55P00	38
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund	D70J00	39

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange	D78Y01	40
Maryland Insurance Administration	D80Z01	41
West North Avenue Development Authority.....	D91	42
 Financial and Revenue Administration		
Comptroller of Maryland	E00A	43
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission	E17	45
State Department of Assessments and Taxation	E50C	46
Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency	E75D	50
 Budgetary and Personnel Administration		
Department of Budget and Management		
Office of the Secretary	F10A	52
Office of Personnel Services and Benefits	F10A02	55
Office of Budget Analysis.....	F10A05	59
Department of Information Technology	F50	60
State Retirement Agency.....	G20J01	65
 General Services		
Department of General Services	H00	67
 Service and Civic Innovation		
Department of Service and Civic Innovation.....	I00	69
 Transportation		
Department of Transportation	J00	72
The Secretary’s Office	J00A01	74
Debt Service Requirements.....	J00A04	76
Maryland Port Administration	J00D00	78
Motor Vehicle Administration.....	J00E00	79
Maryland Transit Administration	J00H01	80
 Natural Resources		
Department of Natural Resources	K00A	82
Department of Agriculture	L00A	88

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Health		
Maryland Department of Health		
Office of the Secretary	M00A01	90
Health Professional Boards and Commissions	M00B0104	93
Public Health Administration	M00F	95
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration.....	M00F03	98
Behavioral Health Administration	M00L	104
Developmental Disabilities Administration.....	M00M	110
Medical Care Programs Administration	M00Q01	113
 Human Services		
Department of Human Services		
Office of the Secretary	N00A01	129
Social Services Administration.....	N00B	131
Local Department Operations	N00G00	136
Child Support Administration.....	N00H00	144
Family Investment Administration	N00I00	146
 Labor, Licensing, and Regulation		
Maryland Department of Labor	P00	149
 Public Safety and Correctional Services		
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services		
Administration and Offices.....	Q00A	152
Corrections	Q00B	156
Division of Parole and Probation.....	Q00C	163
Police and Correctional Training Commission.....	Q00G	165
 Public Education		
Maryland State Department of Education		
Headquarters	R00A01	167
Aid to Education	R00A02	173
Funding for Educational Organizations	R00A03	178
Maryland Center for School Safety	R00A06	182
Accountability and Implementation Board	R12	183

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Higher Education		
Maryland Higher Education Commission.....	R62I00	185
Aid to Community Colleges	R62I0005	191
Student Financial Assistance	R62I0010	193
Higher Education	R75T0001	194
Baltimore City Community College	R95C00	196
Maryland School for the Deaf.....	R99E	197
 Housing and Community Development		
Department of Housing and Community Development	S00A	199
 Commerce		
Department of Commerce.....	T00	202
Maryland Economic Development Corporation	T00A99	204
 Environment		
Department of the Environment.....	U00A	205
Maryland Environmental Service	U10B00	209
 Juvenile Services		
Department of Juvenile Services.....	V00A	210
 State Police		
Department of State Police	W00A	213
 Reserve		
State Reserve Fund.....	Y01A	217
 Deficiencies		
Fiscal 2023 Deficiencies		221
 Sections		
Sections		224
 Technical Corrections		
Technical Corrections		264

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee – Net Changes

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Positions</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	
IAC – Capital Appropriation	-10,000,000	0	0	0	-10,000,000	
Comptroller of Maryland	-1,037,484	-157,991	0	0	-1,195,475	
Department of Budget and Management – Personnel	-46,589,642	-11,952,016	-5,703,204	0	-64,244,862	
Department of Information Technology	-377,207	0	0	0	-377,207	
State Retirement Agency	0	-8,973,908	0	0	-8,973,908	
Department of Service and Civic Innovation	-110,718	0	0	0	-110,718	
MDH – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration	-6,000,000	0	0	0	-6,000,000	
MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration	-77,392	0	-213,365	0	-290,757	
DHS – Child Support Administration	-3,655,000	0	-7,095,000	0	-10,750,000	
DHS – Family Investment	-7,500,000	-1,555,692	-200,000,000	0	-209,055,692	
Maryland Department of Labor	0	-2,793,000	0	0	-2,793,000	
MSDE – Headquarters	-3,000,000	-3,000,000	0	0	-6,000,000	
Maryland Higher Education Commission	-58,810,898	0	0	0	-58,810,898	
Dept of Housing and Community Development PAYGO	-5,000,000	0	0	0	-5,000,000	
Department of Housing and Community Development	0	-1,000,000	0	0	-1,000,000	
Department of Commerce	-96,494	-30,792	-2,899	0	-130,185	
Department of State Police	-113,500	0	0	0	-113,500	
State Reserve Fund	-545,497,068	0	0	0	-545,497,068	
Section 21 – Fiscal 2025 Additions	194,750,000	4,240,000	0	0	198,990,000	14.0
Subtotal Fiscal 2025 Regular Budget	-\$512,325,652	-\$25,223,399	-\$213,014,468	\$0	-\$750,563,519	14.0
Fiscal 2025 Total Budget	-\$512,325,652	-\$25,223,399	-\$213,014,468	\$0	-\$750,563,519	14.0

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget						
DHS – Social Services	-7,000,000	0	0	0	-7,000,000	
State Reserve Fund	-9,418,934	0	0	0	-9,418,934	
Section 19 – Fiscal 2024 Reductions	-24,900,000	0	0	0	-24,900,000	
Section 20 – Fiscal 2024 Additions	24,650,000	0	0	0	24,650,000	
<i>Subtotal Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget</i>	<i>-\$16,668,934</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$16,668,934</i>	
Total Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget	-\$16,668,934	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$16,668,934	
Grand Total Budget Bill	-\$528,994,586	-\$25,223,399	-\$213,014,468	\$ 0	-\$767,232,453	14.0

IAC: Interagency on School Construction
DHS: Department of Human Services
MDH: Maryland Department of Health
PAYGO: pay-as-you-go

Note: The negative numbers are reductions to the budget and the positive numbers are additions to the budget.

A15000
Payments to Civil Divisions of the State

Committee Narrative

A15000.01 Disparity Grants

Adoption of Bracket-based Income Tax Beginning Tax Year 2023: Chapter 23 of the 2021 special session requires all local governments to impose a minimum tax rate of 2.25% and a rate up to 3.2%. It also authorizes local governments to impose the county income tax on a bracket basis and alters the local income tax rates that a jurisdiction must impose to qualify for enhanced State funding under the Disparity Grant Program. Since the enactment of Chapter 23, Anne Arundel and Frederick counties have adopted bracket-based income tax rates. The adoption of bracket-based income tax rates beginning tax year 2023 impacts the disparity grant amount calculation beginning fiscal 2026 allowance. The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with the Office of the Comptroller, submit a report on how the adoption of bracket-based income tax rates beginning tax year 2023 by jurisdictions impacts the calculation of the disparity grant, how the tax revenue will be calculated, and how it will calculate the disparity grant amount.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the calculation of the Disparity Grant amount after the adoption of bracket-based income tax beginning tax year 2023	DBM Office of the Comptroller	October 15, 2024

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.

Amendment No.

1

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.

Amendment No.

2

C00A00

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.

Amendment No.

3

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.

Amendment No.

4

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

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

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

C00A00

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

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.

Amendment No.

5

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

C90G00
Public Service Commission

Committee Narrative

C90G00.01 General Administration and Hearings

Third-party Retail Energy Supplier Regulation and Enforcement Actions in Response to Prohibited Marketing Practices: The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the enforcement actions taken by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in response to third-party retail energy suppliers who have engaged in prohibited marketing practices and the effectiveness of these enforcement actions at prohibiting these marketing practices from occurring. The committees request that PSC submit a report providing an overview of the current types of enforcement actions that it has the statutory authority to take against third-party retail energy suppliers, information and evidences regarding the effectiveness of these enforcement actions, limitations to the effectiveness of these enforcement actions, and any additional enforcement efforts that PSC plans or could take in the future under existing statutory authority to address ongoing complaints from consumers impacted by prohibited marketing practices. The report should also include information on any additional statutory regulatory authority that is needed for effective enforcement in response to customer complaints.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on third-party retail energy supplier regulation and enforcement actions in response to prohibited marketing practices	PSC	December 1, 2024

Utility Termination Restrictions during the Winter Heating Season and in Cases of Extreme Temperatures: The committees are interested in the restrictions that are currently in place through statute and regulations surrounding the circumstances under which a utility may terminate service to residential customers. The committees request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) submit a report outlining the utility termination restrictions that are currently in place during the winter heating season lasting from November 1 to March 1, and on days when the forecasted temperatures are either below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The committees request that the report also include a discussion of the authority of PSC to adopt additional utility termination restrictions through regulation or order surrounding terminations occurring during the summer cooling season to protect utility customers from the effects of extreme heat.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on utility termination restrictions during the winter heating season and due to extreme temperatures	PSC	December 1, 2024

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

Amendment No.

6

C96J00

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.

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

D11A0401
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Committee Narrative

D11A04.01 Executive Direction

Update on State Board of Sign Language Interpreters: Chapters 269 and 270 of 2023 (Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act) established the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters under the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). Throughout calendar 2023, ODHH worked with the Governor’s office to appoint board members and start defining licensing requirements for sign language interpretation in the State. The committees request that ODHH submit a report on the board’s formation and operation, discussing:

- a list of appointed board members;
- progress toward establishing State sign language licensing requirements and projected timeline for publishing the requirements;
- progress toward establishing a Maryland registry and public database of sign language interpreters;
- strategies undertaken or planned to support interpreters through the licensing process and reach unlicensed interpreters;
- year-to-date and projected fiscal 2025 revenue in the Sign Language Interpreters Fund;
- methods employed to set the fee schedule and rates, collect fees, and provide financial assistance with fees;
- methods employed to receive and process complaints of interpreter fraud;
- key performance indicators or metrics that will be used to assess the success and impact of the licensing program; and
- community engagement activities held in fiscal 2024 and 2025 regarding sign language interpretation services and licensure in the State.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on State Board of Sign Language Interpreters	ODHH	September 30, 2024

D12A02
Department of Disabilities

Committee Narrative

D12A02.01 General Administration

Update on Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) Efforts to Fill Vacant Positions: As of December 1, 2023, MDOD reported 2 positions that had been vacant for less than nine months. The committees request that MDOD submit a report regarding those vacant positions, including:

- the status of 2 positions that had been vacant for less than nine months, indicating if the positions have been filled as of the submission of the report;
- if applicable, candidates’ actual or anticipated start date; and
- recruitment strategies employed.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on MDOD recruitment	MDOD	August 1, 2024

D12A02.02 Telecommunications Access of Maryland

Universal Services Trust Fund (USTF) Expenditures: The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) projects declining USTF balances through fiscal 2027 due to increased expenditures in the Telecommunications Access of Maryland program. The committees request that MDOD submit a report providing an analysis of USTF expenditures, including:

- a breakdown of actual fiscal 2019 to 2023 expenditures and projected fiscal 2024 to 2029 expenditures by intended use of funds;
- reasons or factors contributing to the surge in both actual and projected expenditures;
- specific programs or areas driving the increased spending within the Telecommunications Access of Maryland program; and
- a timeline of when MDOD anticipates the necessity for a surcharge increase and the proposed amount for the surcharge increase.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on USTF expenditures	MDOD	September 15, 2024

D13A13
Maryland Energy Administration

Committee Narrative

D13A13.01 General Administration

Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) Revenue, Spending, and Fund Balance: The committees are interested in ensuring transparency in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenue assumptions and spending included in the budget as well as available fund balance and planned usages of revenues. The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) provide an annual report on the revenue from the RGGI carbon dioxide emissions allowance auctions, set-aside allowances, and interest income in conjunction with the submission of the fiscal 2026 budget as an appendix to the Governor’s Fiscal 2026 Budget Books. The report shall include information on the actual fiscal 2024 budget, the fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2026 allowance. The report shall detail:

- revenue assumptions used to calculate the available SEIF from RGGI auctions for each fiscal year, including the number of auctions, the number of allowances sold, the allowance price in each auction, and the anticipated revenue from set-aside allowances;
- interest income received on the SEIF;
- amount of the SEIF from RGGI auction revenue available to each agency that receives funding through each required statutory allocation, dues owed to RGGI, Inc, and transfers or diversions made to other funds; and
- fund balances for each SEIF subaccount, reflecting funds available to spend for the fiscal 2024 actual, the fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2026 allowance.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on revenue assumptions, fund balance, and usage of SEIF revenues sourced from RGGI program auctions	DBM	With submission of the Governor’s Fiscal 2026 Budget Books

Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding for Energy-related Purposes: The committees are interested in tracking federal funds available to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) from the IIJA and the IRA for energy-related purposes, and the status of implementation of programming using these funds. The committees request that MEA submit a report that includes a list of all IIJA and IRA programs for which it has submitted or anticipates submitting an application, the amount of

D13A13

funding available from each program (if funding allocations have been announced), the status of each application submitted or date funding was awarded, and the planned uses for funding from each program.

Additionally, the committees request that MEA provide an update on the implementation of the two home energy rebate programs through IRA funding, the Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebate Program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program. The report should include the status of approval of MEA's application for funding by the U.S. Department of Energy, program design and implementation activities completed, including outreach to the contractor community, and, if initial rebate awards have been made at the time of report submission, the number of rebates awarded under both programs, the average amount per rebate, and the total amount of rebates awarded. If initial rebate awards have not yet been made at the time of report submission, the report should include an anticipated timeline of when rebates under both programs will be available to the public.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on federal IJJA and IRA funding and implementation of home energy rebate programs	MEA	December 31, 2024

Usage of Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) Revenues Transferred to the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA): The fiscal 2025 allowance reflects the transfer of \$90 million of SEIF fund balance to the DPA to be used for implementation of unspecified provisions of Chapter 38 of 2022 (the Climate Solutions Now Act) and Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023. The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) jointly submit a report outlining the sources, uses, and planned uses of this funding.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the usage of SEIF revenues transferred to the DPA	DBM MDE MEA	December 31, 2024

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	Authors	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

D17B0151
Historic St. Mary’s City Commission

Budget Amendments

D17B01.51 Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

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

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

Amendment No.

7

D18A
Governor’s Office for Children

Budget Amendments

D18A01.01 Governor’s Office for Children

Amend the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$15,000,000 of this appropriation ~~is contingent upon passage of the ENOUGH Act~~ made for the purpose of supporting the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households grant program is contingent on enactment of SB 482 or HB 694 establishing the program.

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment to include bill numbers related to the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households grant program and to reflect a general fund reduction for the program, which is contained in a separate action.

Amendment No.

8

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

Amendment No. 9

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	

Amendment No. 10

D21

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Performance Incentive Grant Fund may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman to be used only for the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman, contingent on enactment of SB 134 or HB 297, establishing the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman as an independent unit of State government and expanding the allowable uses of the Performance Incentive Grant Fund. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled.

Explanation: This action requires a transfer of special fund appropriation associated with the Performance Incentive Grant Fund from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman, contingent on enactment of SB 134 or HB 297 establishing the Office of the Correction Ombudsman as an independent unit and the expansion of the Performance Incentive Grant Fund’s allowable uses.

Amendment No.

11

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.

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

D21

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.

Amendment No.

12

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.

Amendment No.

13

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	

Amendment No. **14**

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

Amendment No. **15**

D22

Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture

Budget Amendments

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

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	

Amendment No.

16

D25E
Capital Appropriation – Interagency Commission on School Construction

Budget Amendments

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

D25E03.02 Capital Appropriation

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

~~General Fund Appropriation, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$10,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation that removes the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund's funding mandate.~~

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment that strikes contingent language for the School Construction Revolving Loan Program.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete general funds for the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund that are contingently reduced by the Budget and Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024.	-10,000,000	GF
 Total Change	 -10,000,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	10,000,000	0	-10,000,000	
Special Fund	27,000,000	27,000,000	0	
Total Funds	37,000,000	27,000,000	-10,000,000	

Amendment No.

17

D25
Interagency Commission on School Construction

Budget Amendments

D25E03.03 School Safety Grant Program

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

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

Amendment No.

18

D26A07
Department of Aging

Committee Narrative

D26A07.03 Community Services

Report on Senior Care Funding Adequacy: The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) Senior Care program is provided by all local jurisdictions in the State and serves more than 5,000 individuals. Since fiscal 2023, the annual appropriation for Senior Care has included funding enhancements to address large waitlists in the program. Fiscal 2023 data suggests that with even modest increases in funding, local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are able to expand this service to significantly increase participation while reducing waitlist sizes. The fiscal 2024 working appropriation, after accounting for a planned reversion, totals \$13.9 million with \$4 million intended to address waitlists. The fiscal 2025 allowance continues funding at these levels. Given the recent increases in Senior Care appropriations, the committees are interested in understanding the actual need to serve those in need of Senior Care services in the local jurisdictions. The committees request that the MDOA submit a report providing the following data:

- the number of individuals participating in Senior Care by local AAAs as of September 30, 2024;
- the number of individuals on the Senior Care waitlist by local AAAs as of September 30, 2024;
- the total funding expended on Senior Care in fiscal 2024 by each AAA; and
- the estimated level of funding needed to meet service demands by AAAs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Participation and funding needs	MDOA	December 1, 2024

Update on the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Initiative: Established by executive order in January 2024, the LRM Initiative will connect State agencies to develop strategies to prioritize the needs of the older population in Maryland across State government. The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) will oversee the initiative and staff workgroups and publish two reports with recommendations and a roadmap for interagency collaboration and program development. As of January 2024, MDOA is planning investments in data tools, including a data dashboard to better collect, track, and analyze data to inform its work. MDOA is required by executive order to submit a preliminary report in July 2025 and a final report in July 2026. To understand how fiscal 2024 and 2025 spending may be used to advance the goals of this

D26A07

initiative, the committees request that MDOA submit a report with the following data as of October 30, 2024:

- planned and completed expenses related to the LRM Initiative in fiscal 2024 and 2025;
- a brief timeline of activities and milestones leading up to the 2026 final report; and
- a list of agencies participating in the initiative.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on the LRM Initiative	MDOA	December 15, 2024

Report on Prince George’s County Local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Operations and Spending: The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) received \$3.6 million in federal stimulus funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act between fiscal 2021 and 2023. MDOA distributed the funding to the 19 local AAAs to support program expenditures, and the funding expired September 30, 2023. Prince George’s County was 1 of 5 AAAs that did not completely expend its appropriation, leaving \$84,056 in federal funds unspent. Prince George’s County cited staffing challenges as the main reason for being unable to fully expend the appropriation. The committees are concerned about the ability of local jurisdictions to direct available funding to administer local services and request that MDOA and the Prince George’s County AAA submit a report on the former’s operations, including:

- an organizational chart of Prince George’s County AAA fiscal and operations units, indicating vacant positions;
- a description of revenue and expenditure process for receiving grants and funding programs;
- a list of fiscal 2023 and 2024 aggregated local, State, and federal revenue, and expenditures by program; and
- a description of barriers and challenges to receiving, processing, and spending funding.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Prince George’s County AAA operations	MDOA Prince George’s County AAA	August 1, 2024

D27L00
Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Committee Narrative

D27L00.01 General Administration

Backlogged and Open Cases: The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) recognizes difficulties in managing cases, including backlogs awaiting assignment to investigators, limited staff resources, case complexity, cooperation among involved parties, and the extensive volume of documentation requiring review. The committees request that MCCR incorporate specific details in its annual Managing for Results submission, beginning with the fiscal 2026 allowance. This information should contain the overall count of unassigned cases categorized by type, the number of presently open and pending cases classified by type, and the count of cases exceeding one year, categorized by type.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Performance measures related to the handling of cases	MCCR	With the submission of the fiscal 2026 allowance and annually thereafter

D29

Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority

Committee Narrative

D29A01.01 Administration

Horse Racetrack Progress Reports: Chapter 111 of 2023 created the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority (MTROA). As required, MTROA reported on its recommendations for the future of horse racing in Maryland. The authority recommends the Pimlico Plus Plan, which is to have a single thoroughbred racetrack in Pimlico in Baltimore City. Funds authorized for the renovation of Pimlico and Laurel Park would only support Pimlico renovations. It is unclear what will happen to facilities in Bowie Race Track or Laurel Park. The committees request regular updates on the status of all three properties. For Pimlico, the updates should include any memoranda of understanding (MOU) agreed to by MTROA, changes in ownership, and the status of planning and construction of the facility. For Laurel and Bowie, the update should include any changes in ownership, any MOUs agreed to by MTROA, and proposed uses of the facilities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Horse racetrack progress reports	MTROA	July 12, 2024 October 11, 2024 January 10, 2025 April 11, 2025

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

D40W01
Department of Planning

Budget Amendments

D40W01.04 Planning Coordination

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$125,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland 250 Commission may be expended only for the purpose of grants from the Department of Planning to county or municipal organizations throughout the State dedicated to the effort of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by amendment or otherwise to any other purposes and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts \$125,000 of the \$250,000 appropriated for the Maryland 250 Commission in the Maryland Department of Planning to be used only as grant funding to local nonprofit organizations that are undergoing efforts to celebrate the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the United States.

Amendment No.

19

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;

D52

- 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

D53T00

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Committee Narrative

D53T00.01 General Administration

Update on Long-term Vacancies: As of December 31, 2023, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) had 13 vacancies, 4 of which had been vacant for at least one year. At the budget hearing for MIEMSS on March 1, 2024, the agency testified that it had made offers to fill the 4 positions, which had been vacant for one year or more. The committees are concerned about the impact of long-term vacancies on State operations and request that MIEMSS submit an update on its long-term vacancies, including:

- the titles and classifications of the 4 positions that had been vacant for more than one year;
- the date each position became vacant;
- the status of the 4 positions, indicating if the positions have been filled as of the submission of the report; and
- actions taken by MIEMSS to recruit for these vacant positions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on long-term vacancies	MIEMSS	July 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

D70J00
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund

Committee Narrative

D70J00.42 Insured Division

Quarterly Financial Statements for Insured and Uninsured Divisions: Annually, the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (Maryland Auto) provides end-of-year financial statements including revenue, expenditure, and surplus figures for the closed-out, preceding year; estimates for the current year beginning at closeout; and projections for the immediate year ahead. Most revenue is derived from premiums in the Insured Division and a mandated appropriation of uninsured motorist fines under Section 17-106 of the Transportation Article for the Uninsured Division. However, both divisions derive revenue from investment dividends, which depend on investment portfolio decisions as well as stock market conditions. Comparisons of estimates to closeout and projections to end-of-year estimates suggest limited ability to forecast financial conditions for the full year. Given ongoing concerns about the financial stability of the agency and surplus levels in both divisions, the committees request quarterly updated financial statements for both divisions. The first report should cover data for the first two quarters of calendar 2024, and each subsequent report should cover the prior quarter.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly financial statements for Insured Division and Uninsured Division	Maryland Auto	July 31, 2024 October 31, 2024 March 15, 2025 May 15, 2025

D78Y01
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

Committee Narrative

D78Y01.03 Reinsurance Program

Reinsurance Program Costs and Forecasts: The committees are interested in monitoring the costs of the State Reinsurance Program and future funding needs. The committees request that the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) submit a report that provides an updated forecast of spending and funding needs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reinsurance program costs and forecast	MHBE	September 30, 2024

D80Z01
Maryland Insurance Administration

Committee Narrative

D80Z01.02 Major Information Technology Development Projects

Insurance Tracking System (ITS) Project Status: After significant delays beginning in calendar 2020, active design and development of the ITS project has resumed. A project blueprint was delivered to the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) and approved by the Commissioner in September 2023. As of January 2024, MIA had received a detailed Design and Requirements proposal and new cost quotes. The fiscal 2025 allowance includes \$4 million for continued ITS project development. In order to continue monitoring this project and to be informed of any further delays or cost increases, the committees request that MIA submit initial and follow-up reports to update the committees, including:

- a summary of progress made on the project in the previous two quarters and projected tasks to be completed in the following two quarters, including a list of all identified project development benchmarks and target dates and actual completion dates for each major benchmark;
- actual project spending over the previous two quarters; and
- any updates to the estimated total project cost or anticipated project timeline.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
ITS Major Information Technology Development Project status	MIA	July 10, 2024 January 10, 2025

D91
West North Avenue Development Authority

Budget Amendments

WEST NORTH AVENUE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

D91A01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

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

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

Amendment No.

20

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	

Amendment No.

21

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

Amendment No.

22

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

E50C

two reports updating the budget committees on the status of the CRIS project and cybersecurity needs at SDAT.

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

Amendment No.

23

Add the following language to 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.

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.

E50C

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

Amendment No.

24

E75D
Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Committee Narrative

E75D00.01 Administration and Operations

Monthly Reporting on Sports Wagering: The committees are interested in understanding the implementation of sports wagering within the State. The committees request that the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency include in the agency's published monthly reports for sports wagering additional information on the major types of bets being placed including promotional play spending, parlays, the total handle, the hold, as well as the type of sport(s) events being wagered on. The first of these reports should be published by July 5, 2024, with subsequent reports published monthly thereafter on the fifth of each month.

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

- the estimated number of people impacted by problem gambling;
- efforts to address problem gambling by MLGCA, including efforts by the gaming facilities, specifically addressing voluntary exclusion programs and any other policies or programs;
- the number of individuals participating in voluntary exclusion programs;
- the number of individuals participating in any other programs to address problem gambling offered by MLGCA or gaming facilities;
- the programs offered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- the locations and number of people served by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- the active public awareness campaigns administered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- any other programs or activities supported by MDH to address problem gambling; and

E75D

- the amount of actual expenditures dedicated to addressing problem gambling, separately by source of funding and activity, provided through MDH and MLGCA, including funding for the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, in fiscal 2023 and 2024 and funding available in fiscal 2025.

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

F10A
Office of the Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

Budget Amendments

F10A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon the Department of Budget and Management submitting one report on the expenditure of federal funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act award for the State Fiscal Relief Fund (SFRF) program. The report shall include a table listing the amount available to the State through each SFRF grant, the amount expended for each fiscal year, the remaining balance, and the date by which the funds must be encumbered and expended under federal law. The report shall identify a plan for encumbering and expending funds prior to expiration for any grant with unencumbered and/or unexpended funds. The report shall identify the reasons why any funds are expected to expire prior to use. The report is due September 15, 2024. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of 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: Appendix R of the Governor’s Fiscal 2025 Budget Highlights showed unencumbered balances in federal SFRF monies totaling \$557 million. This language requires a full accounting of SFRF grants to increase transparency and oversight of federal fund spending and maximize utilization of available resources.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
SFRF grant balances	Department of Budget and Management	September 15, 2024

Amendment No. **25**

F10A

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that, since eight State agencies have repeat audit findings in calendar 2023 compliance reports issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) for certain repeat findings, \$250,000 of the appropriation made for the purpose of Executive Direction may not be expended until:

- (1) representatives from agencies with certain repeat audit findings in calendar 2023 have met with the State Chief Information Security Officer (SCISO) to identify and document a path for resolution of any outstanding issues, and the agency has taken corrective action with respect to the findings, including articulating any ongoing associated costs and a timeline for resolution if the corrective action is not complete;
- (2) the SCISO submits a report to OLA by February 1, 2025, addressing corrective actions taken, a path and timeline for resolution of any outstanding issues, and any ongoing costs associated with corrective actions; and
- (3) a report is submitted to the budget committees and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) by OLA, no later than May 1, 2025, listing each repeat audit finding in accordance with item (1) that demonstrates the agencies' commitment to correct each repeat audit finding.

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

Explanation: Audit reports from calendar 2023 identified certain repeat audit findings in State agencies. This language requires that these agencies report their plans to remediate repeat audit findings to the SCISO. The SCISO should review these plans and report to OLA about these agencies' plans. OLA should review the SCISO's findings and report on the commitment to resolving these repeat findings to the budget committees and JAEC. The eight State agencies are the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Environmental Service, the Department of Budget and Management – Office of the Secretary, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the State Treasurer's Office, the State Board of Elections, the Maryland Department of Health – Medical Care Programs Administration and Office of the Secretary and the Department of Commerce.

F10A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on repeat audit findings	SCISO OLA	February 1, 2025 May 1, 2025

Amendment No.

26

Committee Narrative

F10A01.05 Office Of The Chief Of Information Technology

Audit and Financial Compliance Performance Measures: A Department of Budget and Management (DBM) unit was expanded in fiscal 2022 to provide enhanced technical support to State agencies facing repeat audit findings, fiscal crises, and other financial management or audit compliance issues. No measures have been reported so far on activities, outputs, or outcomes of the unit, which could have a significant impact on the financial management and audit compliance needs of State agencies. The budget committees request that DBM include goals, objectives, and performance measures related to the activities of the Audit and Finance Compliance Unit in its fiscal 2026 Managing for Results submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Performance measures related to the Audit and Finance Compliance Unit	DBM	With the submission of the fiscal 2026 allowance

F10A02
Office of Personnel Services and Benefits
Department of Budget and Management

Budget Amendments

F10A02.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submits a report to the budget committees that includes:

- (1) comparative analyses that State employee health plans have prepared under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300gg-26(a)(8), for plans offered for plan years 2022 and 2023, or the most recent two years available;
- (2) DBM’s assessment of each health plan’s compliance with the Parity Act; and
- (3) the number and nature of complaints that have been filed with DBM from calendar years 2018 through 2023 categorizing complaints as filed by plan members, participant, or providers regarding coverage denials or limitations for mental health and/or substance use disorder benefits through state employee health plans.

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.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in receiving more information regarding the State’s compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which prevents group health plans that provide mental health or substance use disorder benefits from imposing less favorable benefit limitations than on medical or surgical benefits.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act compliance report	DBM	November 1, 2024

Amendment No.

27

F10A02

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase the turnover expectancy for a new position to 25%.	-36,651	GF
Total Change	-36,651	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	30.00	30.00		0.00
General Fund	4,148,049	4,111,398	-36,651	
Total Funds	4,148,049	4,111,398	-36,651	

Amendment No.

28

Committee Narrative

Health Insurance Account Closeout Report: The committees request a report on the fiscal 2024 closeout of the Employee and Retiree Health Insurance Account. This report shall include:

- the closing fiscal 2024 fund balance;
- the actual provider payments due in the fiscal year broken out by medical payments for active employees, medical payments for non-Medicare-eligible retirees, medical payments for Medicare-eligible retirees, prescription drug payments for active employees, prescription drug payments for non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and prescription drug payments for Medicare-eligible retirees;
- State employee and retiree contributions, broken out by active employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees;
- an accounting of rebates, recoveries, and other costs, broken out into rebates, recoveries, and other costs associated with active employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees;
- any closeout transactions processed after the fiscal year ended; and
- actual incurred but not received costs.

F10A02

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on fiscal 2024 closeout data for the Employee and Retiree Health Insurance Account	Department of Budget and Management	October 1, 2024

Quarterly Medical, Dental, and Prescription Plan Performance: In recent years, the State has implemented different strategies to contain medical and prescription costs. The budget committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit quarterly reports on plan performance of the State’s prescription, medical, and dental plans.

- Medical and dental reports should provide utilization and cost data broken out by plans as well as actives, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees. The reports should include utilization per 1,000 plan participants; unit cost and per member costs for hospital inpatient services; hospital outpatient services; professional inpatient services; professional outpatient services; and ancillary services, provided by the State’s health plans.
- Prescription reports should provide information on the highest cost prescription drugs by category of treatment; the prescription drugs accounting for the largest increases in drug spending; the top 25 most costly individual prescription drugs in generic, brand, biologics, and specialty drug categories; recent drug patent expirations; and upcoming new drug patent approvals. Additionally, the reports should include data on the cost drivers and drug trends by actives, non-Medicare retirees, and Medicare retirees.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly State medical, dental, and prescription drug plan performance reports	DBM	September 15, 2024 December 15, 2024 March 15, 2025 June 15, 2025

Update on Recommendations for Modernizing State Recruitment: The committees are interested in the State’s progress toward adopting recommendations made in the January 2024 report of the Task Force on the Modernization of the State Personnel Management System (SPMS).

The committees request that Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit a report by October 1, 2024, that includes:

- all actions taken toward implementing the recommendations of the task force;

F10A02

- any other significant additional initiatives DBM recommends to modernize the SPMS;
- an update on the creation and expansion of apprenticeships by agency, including the number of apprentices hired, the classifications in which the apprenticeships were created, and the agencies that employ the apprentices; and
- recommendations for legislation that is needed in order to implement any task force or other recommendations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on progress toward implementation of Task Force on the Modernization of the State personnel system recommendations	DBM	October 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

F10A02.08 Statewide Expenses

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding to reflect anticipated vacancy savings in Executive Branch agencies excluding higher education. This reduction would result in a budgeted turnover rate of 8.6%.	-24,941,254 GF -10,268,366 SF -4,790,380 FF	
2. Reduce funding for the supplemental pension contribution, which will still allow the State to accelerate progress toward full funding while recognizing structural budget challenges.	-21,611,737 GF -1,683,650 SF -912,824 FF	
Total Change	-64,208,211	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	387,565,729	341,012,738	-46,552,991	
Special Fund	67,811,910	55,859,894	-11,952,016	
Federal Fund	52,129,112	46,425,908	-5,703,204	
Total Funds	507,506,751	443,298,540	-64,208,211	

Amendment No.

29

F10A05
Office of Budget Analysis
Department of Budget and Management

Budget Amendments

F10A05.01 Budget Analysis and Formulation

Amend the following language in the general fund appropriation:

General Fund Appropriation, ~~provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$40,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation eliminating the mandate to print budget volumes~~

Explanation: The fiscal 2025 operating budget includes a provision that decreases funding for the Office of Budget Analysis by \$40,000 contingent on a provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 removing the mandate to provide physical copies of budget books. This action removes the contingent language from the budget bill.

Amendment No. 30

Committee Narrative

Submission of Select Budget Detail: The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit complete fiscal 2026 subobject detail by program for Comptroller Objects 08 and 12 by the third Wednesday of January 2025 in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Comptroller Objects 08 and 12 budget detail	DBM	Third Wednesday of January 2025

F50
Department of Information Technology

Budget Amendments

MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUND

F50A01.01 Major Information Technology Development Project Fund

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$1,900,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of funding the Department of General Services eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution Major Information Technology Development Project may not be expended until the fiscal 2025 information technology project request for the project has been provided by the Department of Information Technology to the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted 45 days before the expenditure of funds, 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: New and ongoing projects must submit an information technology project request (ITPR) to request funding for the project, which is then to be approved by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The Department of General Services (DGS) submitted a request for fiscal 2025 funding for the eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution project. While funding was included in the fiscal 2025 allowance for the project, the ITPR was still pending approval from DoIT. This language restricts general funds for the project until DoIT has provided the ITPR to the Department of Legislative Services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Fiscal 2025 ITPR for the DGS eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution project	DoIT	45 days before the expenditure of funds

Amendment No.

31

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$1,500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of funding the Maryland Department of Health Public Health Services Data Modernization Program Major Information Technology Development Project may not be expended until the fiscal 2025 information technology project request for the project has been provided by the Department of

F50

Information Technology to the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted 45 days before the expenditure of funds, 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: New and ongoing projects must submit an information technology project request (ITPR) to request funding for the project, which is then to be approved by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and then provided to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). The fiscal 2025 ITPR for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Services (PHS) Data Modernization Program project has not been provided to DLS. This language restricts general funds for the project until DoIT has provided the ITPR to DLS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Fiscal 2025 ITPR for the MDH PHS Data Modernization Program project	DoIT	45 days before the expenditure of funds

Amendment No.

32

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

F50B04.01 State Chief of Information Technology

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the State Chief of Information Technology program may not be expended until the Department of Information Technology submits a report to the budget committees by September 1, 2024, outlining a plan and timeline for completing:

- (1) a statewide asset inventory;
- (2) executive metrics, cybersecurity program outcome-driven metrics, incident response performance metrics, and metric trend measurement;
- (3) an inventory and risk assessment of the State's legacy systems; and
- (4) data inventory, least privilege access, and user access activities.

F50

The report shall also include existing data security standards that have already been identified by the State Chief Information Security Officer, Chief Technology Officer, and Chief Digital Experience Officer that would best be assimilated by State agencies and any recommendations on and assessing fiscal impacts of data security practices. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in better understanding the timelines planned by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for completing certain cybersecurity and data security actions. This language restricts funds pending submission of a report by DoIT on the planned timeline.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Timeline for completing cybersecurity related actions	DoIT	September 1, 2024

Amendment No.

33

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 11 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-377,207	GF
Total Change	-377,207	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	29.00	29.00		0.00
General Fund	21,237,431	20,860,224	-377,207	
Total Funds	21,237,431	20,860,224	-377,207	

Amendment No.

34

F50

Committee Narrative

Managing for Results (MFR) Goals and Indicators for Services to State Agencies: The Department of Information Technology’s (DoIT) fourth MFR goal is to provide efficient and high-quality information technology services to State agencies. DoIT also has indicators that measure the workload and efficiency. However, the goal does not address value, and there are no indicators for costs. Many of the services that DoIT provides are comparable to services provided by the private sector and other organizations. DoIT should expand its MFR goals to include value and add indicators that measure costs and value. The department should report these indicators with the MFR submission accompanying the fiscal 2026 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR indicators for value and costs of DoIT’s services to State agencies	DoIT	With the submission of the fiscal 2026 budget

Budget Amendments

F50B04.02 Security

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Security program may not be expended until the Department of Information Technology submits a report to the budget committees on the estimated cost of implementing remediation efforts determined to be needed in the cybersecurity assessments. The report shall include information on how the remediation efforts will be categorized to prioritize based on urgency and risk levels, and the estimated cost for each of the identified categories. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Chapter 242 of 2022 requires that the Office of Security Management within the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) ensure that each State agency completes an external assessment at least once every two years and assists each unit to remediate any security vulnerabilities or high-risk configurations identified in the assessment. Agencies excluded from the legislation must also have a similar process. This language restricts funds pending a report on the cost of remediation efforts determined to be needed as a result of the cybersecurity efforts. The submitted report is required to include information on how remediation efforts will be categorized and the costs associated with each category.

F50

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on cybersecurity assessment remediation implementation	DoIT	October 1, 2024

Amendment No.

35

Committee Narrative

Plan for Spending Cybersecurity Funds Appropriated in the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA): The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) will have access to up to \$98.5 million in funding in the DPA to support cybersecurity efforts. DoIT advises that these funds will support the next phase of the cybersecurity assessments, including ongoing cybersecurity, vulnerability risk and reduction assessments, privacy impact assessments, and implementation of remediation recommended by the assessments. The committees request that DoIT report on its plans to spend funds in the DPA. The report should include discussions of the activities and timing of the spending and progress made securing State information technology hardware, software, and systems. It should also include an update on efforts made to address cybersecurity risks in legacy systems.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on spending DPA funds	DoIT	December 31, 2024

G20J01

State Retirement Agency

Budget Amendments

G20J01.01 State Retirement Agency

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$8,973,908 in special funds made for the purpose of operating expenses is reduced.

Further provided that funds are appropriated in other agency budgets to pay for services provided by this program. Authorization is hereby granted to use these receipts as special funds for operating expenses in this program.

Explanation: The State Retirement Agency incorrectly budgeted its entire operations budget as special funds despite funding being available in the form of reimbursable funds from other State agencies.

Amendment No.

36

Committee Narrative

Law Enforcement Officers Catastrophic Injuries: The committees are concerned about members of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) and the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) who are awarded a special and accidental disability benefit for "catastrophic injuries" that result in their being unable to work in any capacity and not receiving a benefit equal to 100% of their annual compensation at the time their injury occurred.

The State Retirement Agency (SRA) should submit a report to the budget committees and the Joint Committee on Pensions by December 1, 2024, on the impact of providing this benefit to members of the LEOPS and SPRS. The report should include:

- how many members in the LEOPS or SPRS have been awarded and are receiving an accidental or special disability benefit from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2024;
- how many accidental or special disability retirees in the LEOPS or SPRS have returned to work with the State or a participating employer;
- to the extent possible, determination of if "catastrophic injury" has been defined by any public pension plans for purposes of line-of-duty disability benefits or if any case law exists that has addressed what constitutes a "catastrophic injury";

G20J01

- to the extent possible, determination of if any other public pension plans provide increased line-of-duty disability benefits for “catastrophic injuries” and if so, what level of benefits are provided;
- if other public pension plans provide increased line of duty disability benefits for “catastrophic injuries,” to the extent possible, determination of any implementation issues these plans may have encountered when these benefits were established;
- the potential increased costs to the State for implementing an increased line-of-duty disability benefit for “catastrophic injuries” to members of the LEOPS or SPRS and any tax issues that may need to be addressed prior to the establishment of the benefit; and
- any other information SRA believe would be relevant for the Joint Committee on Pensions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the impact of catastrophic injuries on law enforcement pension benefits	SRA	December 1, 2024

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

Amendment No. **37**

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

I00
Department of Service and Civic Innovation

Budget Amendments

I00A01.01 Service and Civic Innovation

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 3 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-48,531	GF
 Total Change	 -48,531	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	20.80	20.80		0.00
General Fund	18,450,360	18,401,829	-48,531	
Federal Fund	6,868,593	6,868,593	0	
Total Funds	25,318,953	25,270,422	-48,531	

Amendment No.

38

I00

I00A01.02 Maryland Corps Program

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:-

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 4 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-62,187	GF
 Total Change	 -62,187	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	18.00	18.00		0.00
General Fund	11,461,596	11,399,409	-62,187	
Special Fund	19,220,748	19,220,748	0	
Total Funds	30,682,344	30,620,157	-62,187	

Amendment No.

39

Committee Narrative

State or Local Government Agencies with Corps Participants: As required by Chapter 99 of 2023, the Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) is required to submit two reports at the end of each fiscal year beginning in fiscal 2024: one for the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway Fund and one the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway Fund. Each report is required to contain the number of corps participants employed by State or local government agencies after completion of the program. In addition to this data, the budget committees are interested in learning where among State or local government agencies former corps participants may find employment. The committees request that DSCI submit a report listing the State or local government employers for corps participants from the first cohort, including the number of participants at each of these sites.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
State or local government agencies with corps participants	DSCI	October 1, 2024

Report on Wage Subsidization: The Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) works with partner entities to place its participants in the Maryland Service Year and Service Year Option programs. Participants receive a wage during the program and a monetary award upon completion of the program. As program participation expands, DSCI will need to work with additional employer organizations. To recruit employers with in-demand jobs, minimize the cost to the State, maximize post-service year job opportunities for participants, encourage rapid participation expansion, and ensure that there are adequate funds available to support wraparound services costs for program participants, the budget committees are interested in ensuring DSCI has a plan to increase the partner organizations share of participants’ wages over time. The committees request that DSCI submit a report on its plan for managing the total cost to the State for wages associated with the program. The report should provide a plan and a year-by-year timeline to increase total employer wage payments to at least 50% of all wage payments within three years.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on wage subsidization	DSCI	December 1, 2024

J00
Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that projects and funding levels appropriated for capital projects, as well as total estimated project costs within the Consolidated Transportation Program, shall be expended in accordance with the plan approved during the legislative session. The department shall prepare a report to notify the budget committees of the proposed changes in the event that the department modifies the program to:

- (1) add a new project to the construction program or development and evaluation program meeting the definition of a “major project” under Section 2-103.1 of the Transportation Article that was not previously contained within a plan reviewed in a prior year by the General Assembly and will result in the need to expend funds in the current budget year; or
- (2) change the scope of a project in the construction program or development and evaluation program meeting the definition of a “major project” under Section 2-103.1 of the Transportation Article that will result in an increase of more than 10% or \$1,000,000, whichever is greater, in the total project costs as reviewed by the General Assembly during a prior session.

For each change, the report shall identify the project title, justification for adding the new project or modifying the scope of the existing project, current year funding levels, and the total project cost as approved by the General Assembly during the prior session compared with the proposed current year funding and total project cost estimate resulting from the project addition or change in scope.

Further provided that notification of project additions, as outlined in paragraph (1) above; changes in the scope of a project, as outlined in paragraph (2) above; or moving projects from the development and evaluation program to the construction program shall be made to the General Assembly 45 days prior to the expenditure of funds or the submission of any contract for approval to the Board of Public Works.

Explanation: This annual budget bill language requires the department to notify the budget committees of proposed changes to the transportation capital program that will add a new project that was not in the fiscal 2024 to 2029 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) or will increase a total project’s cost by more than 10%, or \$1 million, due to a change in scope. Reports are to be submitted with the draft and final versions of the CTP with each using the 2024 session CTP as the basis for comparison. In addition, notification is required as needed throughout the budget year if certain changes to projects are made.

J00

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Capital budget changes from one CTP version to the next

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

With draft CTP
With final CTP

Capital budget changes throughout the year

MDOT

45 days prior to the expenditure of funds or seeking Board of Public Works approval

Amendment No.

40

J00A01
The Secretary's Office
Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

J00A01.02 Operating Grants-In-Aid

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that no more than \$5,509,125 of this appropriation may be expended for operating grants-in-aid, except for:

- (1) any additional special funds necessary to match unanticipated federal fund attainments;
or
- (2) any proposed increase either to provide funds for a new grantee or to increase funds for an existing grantee.

Further provided that no expenditures in excess of \$5,509,125 may occur unless the department provides notification to the budget committees to justify the need for additional expenditures due to either item (1) or (2) above, and the committees provide review and comment or 45 days elapse from the date such notification is provided to the committees.

Explanation: This annual language caps the level of special funds provided for operating grants-in-aid. The cap may be increased to match unanticipated federal dollars or to provide new or expanded grant funding upon notification to the budget committees.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Explanation of need for additional special funds for operating grants-in-aid	Maryland Department of Transportation	45 days prior to expenditure

Amendment No. **41**

J00A01.03 Facilities and Capital Equipment

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that no funds may be expended by the Secretary's Office for any capital project or grant with a total project cost in excess of \$500,000 that is not currently included in the fiscal 2024 to 2029 Consolidated Transportation Program, except as outlined below:

J00A01

- (1) the Secretary shall notify the budget committees of any proposed capital project or grant with a total cost in excess of \$500,000, including the need and justification for the project and its total cost; and
- (2) the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment on the proposed capital project or grant.

Explanation: This language provides legislative oversight of capital projects and grants exceeding \$500,000 that are not listed in the current Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Notification of the intent to fund a capital project or grant exceeding \$500,000 that is not listed in the current CTP	Maryland Department of Transportation	45 days prior to expenditure

Amendment No.

42

J00A04
Debt Service Requirements
Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Consolidated Transportation Bonds may be issued in any amount, provided that the aggregate outstanding and unpaid balance of these bonds and bonds of prior issues may not exceed \$2,850,050,000 as of June 30, 2025. The total aggregate outstanding and unpaid principal balance of nontraditional debt, defined as any debt instrument that is not a Consolidated Transportation Bond or a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bond issued by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), exclusive of debt for the Purple Line Light Rail Project, may not exceed \$887,865,000 as of June 30, 2025. The total aggregate outstanding and unpaid principal balance on debt for the Purple Line may not exceed \$2,219,374,000 as of June 30, 2025. Provided, however, that in addition to the limits established under this provision, MDOT may increase the aggregate outstanding unpaid and principal balance of Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt so long as:

- (1) MDOT provides notice to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee stating the specific reason for the additional issuance and providing specific information regarding the proposed issuance, including information specifying the total amount of Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt that would be outstanding on June 30, 2025, and the total amount by which the fiscal 2025 debt service payment for all Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt would increase following the additional issuance; and
- (2) the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee have 45 days to review and comment on the proposed additional issuance before the publication of a preliminary official statement. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee may hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed increase and shall signal their intent to hold a hearing within 45 days of receiving notice from MDOT.

Explanation: Section 3-202 of the Transportation Article requires the General Assembly to establish the maximum debt outstanding for Consolidated Transportation Bonds each year in the Budget Bill. The level is based on the outstanding debt as of June 30, 2023, plus projected debt to be issued during fiscal 2025 in support of the transportation capital program. No Consolidated Transportation Bond debt issuance is planned for fiscal 2024. For nontraditional debt, this language limits the amount of debt outstanding at the end of fiscal 2025, exclusive of debt issued for the Purple Line Light Rail Transit project, to the total amount that was outstanding from all previous nontraditional debt issuances as of December 31, 2023, plus anticipated issuances of \$75 million for a new fare collection system for the Maryland Transit Administration and \$235 million for the Concourse A/B Connector and Baggage Handling System Replacement project at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Debt outstanding for

J00A04

the Purple Line Project is capped at the projected maximum debt outstanding level that will occur during the construction phase of the Purple Line Project. The language allows MDOT to increase the amount of Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt outstanding in fiscal 2025 by providing notification to the budget committees regarding the reason that the additional debt is required.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Justification for increasing Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt outstanding	MDOT	45 days prior to publication of a preliminary official statement

Amendment No.

43

Add the following language:

MDOT shall submit with its annual September and January financial forecasts information on:

- (1) anticipated and actual nontraditional debt outstanding as of June 30 of each year; and
- (2) anticipated and actual debt service payments for each outstanding nontraditional debt issuance from fiscal 2024 through 2034.

Nontraditional debt is defined as any debt instrument that is not a Consolidated Transportation Bond or a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bond; such debt includes, but is not limited to, Certificates of Participation; debt backed by customer facility charges, passenger facility charges or other revenues; and debt issued by the Maryland Economic Development Corporation or any other third party on behalf of MDOT.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring the use of nontraditional debt by MDOT. The information provides the budget committees with additional information on the usage and annual costs of nontraditional debt.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Nontraditional debt outstanding and anticipated debt service payments	MDOT	With the September forecast With the January forecast

Amendment No.

44

J00D00
Maryland Port Administration
Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00D00.02 Port Facilities and Capital Equipment

Howard Street Tunnel Project: The Howard Street Tunnel project is a priority project for the State of Maryland. It will allow double-stack trains in the Howard Street Tunnel, which will increase business at the Port of Baltimore, generate thousands of new jobs, and spur growth for Maryland's economy. The size and complexity of this project requires a partnership between CSX, the federal government, the State of Maryland, Baltimore City, and others. It is the intent of the committees that all parties work closely together to address permitting requirements and any issues that may arise on the project to ensure that the project stays on schedule and costs are contained.

-

J00E00
Motor Vehicle Administration
Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00E00.01 Motor Vehicle Operations

Improper Out-of-state Tags: The committees are concerned about Maryland residents with out-of-state vehicle registrations, particularly given a January 2024 assessment by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) that identified nearly 34,000 individuals with Maryland addresses and vehicles registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Maryland law requires that new residents of the State title and register their vehicles with MVA within 60 days. Maryland residents using improper out-of-state tags results in decreased State revenues associated with vehicle registration, titling, and the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. Given these concerns, the committees request that MVA submit a report describing the issue of improper out-of-state tags, including statutory and regulatory background, frequency and effectiveness of MVA enforcement and due diligence actions, and recent trends of motorists using improper out-of-state tags in the State. The report should also include a comparison of Maryland’s laws, enforcement actions, and fee structures to neighboring states.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on improper out-of-state tags	MVA	October 15, 2024

Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund Uninsured Division Solvency: The committees remain concerned about the financial solvency of the Uninsured Division of the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (Maryland Auto), which is primarily supported by uninsured motorist fines assessed by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). Maryland Auto and the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) have identified that the current uninsured motorist assessment rate may be too low to disincentivize drivers from failing to maintain auto insurance policies. The committees are therefore interested in obtaining additional information on the payment of assessed uninsured motorist fines and the population that would be impacted by a change in the rate. The committees request that MVA, in collaboration with Maryland Auto and MIA, submit a report that includes data on the total amount of uninsured motorist fines assessed, billed, and collected in fiscal 2022 and 2023, and the share of motorists who pay assessed fines within one year, two years, or who have never paid the fine. The report should also include an assessment, if known, of how increasing the rate may impact motorists by jurisdiction and demographic group and how Maryland’s uninsured motorist fines compare to neighboring states.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the uninsured motorist fine	MVA MIA Maryland Auto	September 15, 2024

J00H01
Maryland Transit Administration
Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$250,000 of the special fund appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration in program J00H01.01 Transit Administration and \$250,000 of the special fund appropriation made for the purpose of departmental administration in program J00A01.01 Executive Direction of The Secretary's Office (TSO) may not be expended until the Maryland Transit Administration and TSO submit a report to the budget committees on the impacts of the fall 2023 service changes to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 bus routes. The report shall include:

- (1) an impact assessment of the fall 2023 service adjustments to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 routes, including:
 - (a) demographic information on the rider population and service area, prior to the change;
 - (b) monthly ridership data from July 2022 through July 2023;
 - (c) descriptions of the schools and businesses in the service area;
 - (d) projected impacts of the service change to residents, commuters, students, and other populations in the service area; and
 - (e) any impacts to the corresponding paratransit service area; and
- (2) a summary of the agency's annual outreach efforts prior to route changes and how outreach could be improved to better inform impacted riders, with a particular focus on disadvantaged riders such as those lacking internet access or the ability to attend public meetings.

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

Explanation: Each year, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) proposes various service adjustments in the core bus system in Baltimore City to adapt to changing travel needs and trends. MTA holds public hearings to solicit stakeholder and community feedback prior to route changes becoming effective. However, the committees are concerned that sufficient information on impacted riders is not publicly available prior to service changes and that certain populations

J00H01

may not have access to public meetings or opportunities to share feedback. This language restricts funding pending a report on improving the process surrounding annual fixed route service changes and an impact assessment of the calendar 2023 changes to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 route in Baltimore City.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 bus route changes	MTA TSO	December 1, 2024

Amendment No.

45

Committee Narrative

J00H01.01 Transit Administration

Purple Line Project Status Reports: Given continued challenges and cost overruns associated with completing construction on the Purple Line Light Rail project, the committees request that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) submit six bimonthly construction status reports for the Purple Line project to the committees. The status reports shall provide:

- the completion percentages for the project as a whole and for each major category of work;
- the running total amount expended for construction; and
- an explanation of any material change to the total construction cost estimate or construction schedule as set forth in the revised public-private partnership agreement as amended to add Maryland Transit Solutions as the replacement design-build contractor for the project.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reports on Purple Line construction progress	MTA	July 1, 2024, and bimonthly thereafter ending with the May 1, 2025 report

K00A
Department of Natural Resources

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that the appropriations made for the purpose of salaries in the Forest Service and the Maryland Park Service (MPS) shall be reduced by \$968,093 in general funds in the Forest Service and \$5,710,734 in general funds in MPS contingent on enactment of a provision in HB 352 or SB 362 authorizing the Governor to use special funds from the Program Open Space State fund balance for the same purposes in fiscal 2025 only.

Explanation: This action reduces Forest Service and Maryland Park Service salary funding if the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 authorizes the Governor to use special funds from the Program Open Space State fund balance instead for fiscal 2025 only.

Amendment No. **46**

Committee Narrative

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

K00A01.01 Secretariat

Office of Outdoor Recreation Reporting Requirement: The committees are interested in understanding more about the work of the Office of Outdoor Recreation and the impact of this work. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) quantify the goals of the Maryland Outdoor Recreation Economic (MORE) Commission and develop Managing for Results (MFR) input, output, and outcome measures that correspond to these numerical goals to be submitted with the fiscal 2026 budget submission. In addition, the committees request that DNR submit a plan for the Office of Outdoor Recreation’s implementation of the recommendations of the MORE Commission. The plan should include the following: the status of implementation of the commission’s five main recommendations; strategies for implementing the recommendations that have not already been completed; an updated analysis of the value that outdoor recreation generates in Maryland as a whole and, if available, by county using Bureau of Economic Analysis data; the state of outdoor recreation and heritage tourism in Maryland using information from the updated Maryland Land Recreation and Preservation Plan; and the opportunities that a Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area creates for Maryland. The plan is requested to be submitted by October 1, 2024.

K00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR input, output, and outcome measures for commission goals	DNR	Fiscal 2026 budget submission
Office of Outdoor Recreation Plan for meeting commission goals	DNR	October 1, 2024

Cultural and Historical Resources Preservation Plan for Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-managed Lands: The committees are concerned that DNR manages over 500,000 acres of land with numerous cultural and historical sites without a plan that ensures that these sites are preserved. Therefore, the committees request that DNR submit a report detailing the department's efforts to establish a cultural and historical resources protection plan. The plan shall address the following: development of a systemwide survey to inventory all historical and cultural sites on DNR-managed lands; creation of a centralized cultural resources management unit; specification of the staffing and funding needs of a centralized cultural resources management unit; dedication of capital improvement funding for historic preservation projects; and establishment of a research budget to conduct architectural studies and archeological investigations and synthesize data collected from these efforts into interpretive materials to be shared with the public. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Cultural and historical resources preservation plan for DNR-managed lands	DNR	December 1, 2024

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.

K00A

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

LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING

K00A05.05 Land Acquisition and Planning

Report on Consideration of Mentored Hunt Program Participant Access to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Easements: The committees recognize that Maryland will be increasing its land acquisition efforts as required by Chapter 546 of 2023 (Maryland the Beautiful Act). Chapter 546 established the intent of the General Assembly that (1) by calendar 2030, 30% of lands in the State be conserved and (2) by calendar 2024, 40% of lands in the State be conserved. Conservation easements purchased by the State on private lands apply conditions of use that remain in perpetuity. From a hunting perspective, the conditions of use determined at the time that the State buys conservation easements on private lands could result in hunters never having access to these conserved lands. This would reduce the size and number of hunting areas and thus potentially reduce the number of people who hunt in Maryland. To counter the decline in hunting, DNR adopted a Mentored Hunt Program. The Mentored Hunt Program is intended to promote hunting consistent with and responsive to the nationwide recruitment, retention, and reactivation initiative. Therefore, the committees request that DNR encourage landowners to provide access to their lands for individuals participating in the Mentored Hunt Program when the landowners negotiate a land conservation easement agreement under Program Open Space (POS) or the Rural Legacy Program. In addition, the committees request that DNR report on the outcome of its efforts to encourage landowners negotiating State conservation easements under POS and the Rural Legacy Program to provide access to Mentored Hunt Program participants by October 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on consideration of Mentored Hunt Program participant access to DNR conservation easements	DNR	October 1, 2024

CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL SERVICE

K00A14.02 Chesapeake and Coastal Service

Summary of Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending: The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR),

K00A

and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) provide a report on Chesapeake Bay restoration spending. The report shall be drafted subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) in terms of both electronic format to be used and data to be included. The scope of the report is as follows: Chesapeake Bay restoration operating and capital expenditures by agency, fund type, and particular fund source based on programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration for the fiscal 2024 actual, fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and fiscal 2026 allowance to be included as an appendix in the fiscal 2026 budget volumes and submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Summary of Chesapeake Bay restoration spending for programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration	DBM DNR MDE	Fiscal 2026 budget submission

Historical and Projected Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending: The committees are interested in the status of Chesapeake Bay restoration. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) provide a report by December 1, 2024, on recent and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending and associated impacts and the overall framework to meet the calendar 2025 requirement of having all best management practices (BMP) in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The report is requested to include the following:

- fiscal 2024 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reductions; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to be submitted electronically in disaggregated form to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS);
- projected fiscal 2025 to 2026 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reductions; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to be submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS;
- an overall framework discussing the needed regulations, revenues, laws, and administrative actions and their impacts on individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses by year from fiscal 2024 to 2025 in order to reach the calendar 2025

K00A

requirement of having all BMPs in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay, to be both written in narrative form and tabulated in spreadsheet form that is submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS;

- an analysis of the various options for financing Chesapeake Bay restoration, including public-private partnerships, a regional financing authority, nutrient trading, technological developments, and any other policy innovations that would improve the effectiveness of Maryland and other states' efforts toward Chesapeake Bay restoration;
- an analysis on how cost effective the existing State funding sources, such as the Bay Restoration Fund, Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund, and Clean Water Commerce Account among others are for Chesapeake Bay restoration purposes; and
- updated information on the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan implementation and how the loads associated with the Conowingo Dam infill, growth of people and animals, and climate change will be addressed.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Historical and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending	MDP DNR MDA MDE DBM	December 1, 2024

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund Annual Work and Expenditure Plans: The committees are concerned that § 8-2A-03(d) of the Natural Resources Article requires the Governor to submit the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans to the General Assembly as part of the annual budget submission, but the Governor has not done so on a regular basis. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submit the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans with the fiscal 2026 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans	DNR	Fiscal 2026 budget submission

K00A

FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES

K00A17.01 Fishing and Boating Services

Report on Recreational Striped Bass Reporting Methods and Task Force Recommendations Implementation: The committees are interested in the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) recreational striped bass reporting methods. The committees are also interested in the status of implementation of the December 1, 2022 report recommendations of the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing – established by Chapters 409 and 410 of 2022. Therefore, the committees request that DNR report on (1) methods to provide licensed fishermen the ability to record electronically per day the number of caught kept striped bass and caught discarded striped bass and (2) the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on recreational striped bass reporting methods and task force recommendations implementation	DNR	December 1, 2024

L00A
Department of Agriculture

Committee Narrative

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

L00A11.05 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

Report on Consideration of Mentored Hunt Program Participant Access to Maryland Department of Agricultural Conservation Easements: The committees recognize that Maryland will be increasing its land acquisition efforts as required by Chapter 546 of 2023 (Maryland the Beautiful Act). Chapter 546 established the intent of the General Assembly that (1) by calendar 2030, 30% of lands in the State be conserved and (2) by calendar 2024, 40% of lands in the State be conserved. Conservation easements purchased by the State on private lands apply conditions of use that remain in perpetuity. From a hunting perspective, the conditions of use determined at the time that the State buys conservation easements on private lands could result in hunters never having access to these conserved lands. This would reduce the size and number of hunting areas and thus potentially reduce the number of people who hunt in Maryland. To counter the decline in hunting, the Department of Natural Resources adopted a Mentored Hunt Program. The Mentored Hunt Program is intended to promote hunting consistent with and responsive to the nationwide recruitment, retention, and reactivation initiative. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) encourage landowners to provide access to their lands for individuals participating in the Mentored Hunt Program when the landowners negotiate a land conservation easement agreement under the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program (MALPP). In addition, the committees request that MDA report on the outcome of its efforts to encourage landowners negotiating State conservation easements under MALPP to provide access to Mentored Hunt Program participants by October 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on consideration of Mentored Hunt Program participant access to MDA conservation easements	MDA	October 1, 2024

OFFICE OF MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

L00A12.10 Marketing and Agriculture Development

Status and Future of Value-added Agriculture in Maryland: The committees are interested in learning more about the status and future of value-added agriculture in Maryland given that that the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network of Salisbury University estimates that Maryland’s value-added agriculture industry supports close to 74,000 jobs and

L00A

brings a total economic impact of more than \$20.6 billion annually to the State's economy. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) develop Managing for Results (MFR) measures and submit a report on the state of value-added agriculture in Maryland. The MFR measures are requested to include input, output, and outcome measures that correspond to a numerical goal for the number of value-added agricultural businesses that are launched or relocate to Maryland each fiscal year. The report is requested to include the following information: information related to value-added agriculture from the 2022 Census of Agriculture; updated information on the jobs and total economic impact of value-added agriculture; an assessment of the potential and growth of value-added enterprises in Maryland; information about State and local educational institutions that provide training for value-added entrepreneurs; an assessment of the need for supporting infrastructure, such as processing equipment, meat processing facilities, and commercial/shared-use kitchens; and the resources available for supporting research and technology in the value-added agriculture policy area.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status and future of value-added agriculture in Maryland	MDA	October 1, 2024

Report on Blue Catfish Marketing: The committees are interested in learning more about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) marketing of blue catfish. Therefore, the committees request that MDA, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), report on its efforts to increase the marketing, processing, and sale of blue catfish in Maryland. The report shall review past and ongoing efforts to promote the creation of a market for blue catfish, identify and explore potential sectors for the blue catfish market, and identify any actions that the State can take to promote and expand the market for blue catfish. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on blue catfish marketing	MDA DNR	December 1, 2024

M00A01
Office of the Secretary
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

M00A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of Executive Direction may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on recruitment and new positions at MDH. The report shall include the following:

- (1) an evaluation of the impact of fiscal 2023 annual salary review adjustments and any other compensation benefits or incentives offered by MDH; and
- (2) a detailed breakout of new positions and contractual conversions departmentwide and by office in fiscal 2025.

The report shall be submitted by August 15, 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 purposes and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Language in the fiscal 2023 and 2024 Budget Bill restricted funds pending reports on the reasons for vacancies and efforts to recruit and retain MDH employees, and MDH submitted one of the required reports on February 19, 2024. Although the vacancy rate as of January 1, 2024, in MDH Administration had decreased more than 3 percentage points compared to the vacancy rate in January 2023, MDH continues to report large numbers of vacancies in its administrative offices and at State facilities. The General Assembly remains interested in understanding the impact of recent compensation adjustments, recruitment strategies, and new fiscal 2025 positions on MDH staffing levels. This language restricts funds pending a report on additional information related to recruitment and new positions throughout MDH.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MDH staffing and salary update	MDH	August 15, 2024

Amendment No.

47

M00A01

Committee Narrative

Overdose Response Efforts: As the opioid crisis evolves and overdoses in Maryland rise, the committees are interested in understanding the range and effectiveness of strategies that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is implementing to address the crisis. The committees request that MDH include in the annual report for the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access a list of departmentwide or interdepartmental initiatives designed to address substance use disorder among Maryland residents. Initiatives should include statewide efforts managed by MDH and be inclusive of preventive, educational, and relevant supportive services and programs. Specifically, the annual report should include:

- initiative names and brief descriptions of their function and activities;
- list of deliverables, goals, and outcomes, as applicable of the group or project;
- other agencies or nongovernmental entities involved with the initiative;
- date of establishment and date of termination (if applicable);
- MDH's plan to continue the effort, including anticipated date to end or reevaluate project outcomes; and
- costs associated with each project from inception through the end of fiscal 2024, including unspent allocated funds.

Implementation of Recommendations from Financial Compliance Audit: In the Statewide Review of Budget Closeout Transactions for fiscal 2022 released in January 2023, the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) included findings related to a review of 16 Maryland Department of Health (MDH) accounts and identified \$3.5 billion in federal fund revenue that lacked proper supporting documentation. This finding was repeated in OLA's fiscal 2023 closeout audit, which found that \$2.3 billion in federal fund revenue lacked proper documentation. In an October 2023 fiscal compliance audit for the MDH Office of the Secretary and Other Units, OLA covered MDH's federal fund accounting policies and procedures and published findings related to MDH's failure to recover federal revenue, lack of adequate processes to verify receipt of federal fund reimbursement requests, and deficit balance in the Medicaid clearing account (which receives and reallocates federal funds to appropriate expenditure accounts). As of November 2023, MDH had implemented 13 of 28 recommendations published by OLA. The committees are interested in MDH's progress toward meeting the goal of implementing all recommendations by the close of fiscal 2024 to address the deficiencies in its federal fund accounting procedures. The committees request that MDH submit a report with the following information, as of August 1, 2024:

M00A01

- the status of implementing each of the 28 recommendations published by OLA;
- a brief description of personnel and budgetary changes associated with implementing each recommendation;
- an indication of which recommendations, if any, were not implemented by June 30, 2024, and the reasons they were not implemented by that date or will not be implemented; and
- if applicable, estimated implementation dates for each recommendation that had not been completed by August 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on implementation of recommendations from financial compliance audit	MDH	September 1, 2024

M00B0104
Health Professional Boards and Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

REGULATORY SERVICES

M00B01.04 Health Professionals Boards and Commissions

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 for the Board of Dental Examiners, \$100,000 for the Board of Pharmacy, and \$100,000 for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists made for the purposes of administrative expenses may not be expended until a joint report is submitted by the Maryland Department of Health detailing the backlog of cases to be investigated by each board, plans to remedy the low completion percentage of the timely complaint investigation goal, and a timeline for improvement on annual performance goals. The report shall be submitted by August 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Several of the health professional boards have missed their annual Managing for Results performance goals relating to timely investigations for the last five fiscal years. This language restricts funds from the boards that have missed these goals for five consecutive years until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a joint report outlining plans to correct the low percentage of timely investigations and clear any case backlogs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Health Professional Boards and Commissions' timely investigation goal	MDH	August 1, 2024

Amendment No.

48

M00B0104

Committee Narrative

M00B01.05 Board of Nursing

Maryland Board of Nursing Infrastructure Operations Transfer: Chapters 222 and 223 of 2023 temporarily repeal the Maryland Board of Nursing’s (BON) authority to employ staff, define the duties of its staff, and employ an executive director. Instead, authority of the board’s infrastructure and oversight operations are assigned to the Secretary of Health. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and BON submit a joint report detailing the implementation of the transfer of BON infrastructure operations to MDH Office of the Secretary, including:

- how general funds within MDH Office of the Secretary and corresponding reimbursable funds within BON were spent in fiscal 2024;
- a list of the board’s activities that were determined to be infrastructure operations and were transferred to MDH Office of the Secretary;
- a breakdown of each agency’s role in infrastructure operations and the positions performing infrastructure and oversight duties; and
- details on BON and MDH Office of the Secretary’s plan to transition infrastructure operations back to BON beginning in fiscal 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on transfer of BON infrastructure operations	MDH BON	August 1, 2024

M00F
Public Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

M00F01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Executive Direction may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Budget and Management submit a report to the budget committees on the Core Public Health Services funding formula, including how it is distributed across the 24 local health departments (LHD) and how MDH determines the local match required for each LHD. The report shall include the following information:

- (1) the amount of LHD funding allocated in the prior fiscal year that should be included in the base amount for the purpose of calculating the formula each year, specifying whether the base amount should include salary adjustments;
- (2) a comparison of the annual formula growth to actual LHD expenditure growth, by jurisdiction, between fiscal 2022 through 2025;
- (3) details regarding the methodology and rationale for determining LHD funding allocation by jurisdiction;
- (4) actual non-State LHD expenditures by jurisdiction allocated to LHD in fiscal 2022 through 2024;
- (5) any recommendations to change the formula;
- (6) the local match percentage and amount required for each jurisdiction in each year from fiscal 2021 through 2025;
- (7) a description of how the local match percentage was applied in each fiscal year; and
- (8) recommendations to adjust the local match calculation to prevent burdensome increases in local funding requirements.

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

M00F

Explanation: Section 2-302 of the Health – General Article mandates formula funding for Core Public Health Services (funding for LHD) with an annual adjustment factor set to inflation and population growth. The formula, as currently written in statute, does not account for ongoing expenditures related to annual general salary increases, salary increments, or health insurance costs. In addition, increases in the State allocation to LHDs resulted in significant increases in the amount of local match funding required for each LHD in fiscal 2024, and this will likely be the case in fiscal 2025 as well. This language restricts funding until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit a report on the funding formula calculation, recent actual LHD expenditures, and recommendations for any changes to the formula.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on LHD funding formula	MDH DBM	October 1, 2024

Amendment No.

49

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Executive Direction in the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, submits a report to the budget committees on improving oversight of the physician dispensing process. The report should include the following:

- (1) a summary of the agencies' roles in overseeing the permit process for physician dispensing of controlled dangerous substances (CDS) and non-CDS;
- (2) a description of permit requirements for physicians to dispense non-CDS, including the rationale behind the permit requirements;
- (3) a description of the steps that would be needed to transfer oversight authority to the Board of Physicians and the resulting impact on the Office of Controlled Substances Administration; and
- (4) anticipated operational and fiscal impacts of changing the dispensing permit for non-CDS from the provider level to facility level.

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

M00F

other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The committees are concerned that the process by which physicians are permitted to dispense non-CDS is inefficient and can result in unnecessary delays in dispensing non-CDS prescriptions. The committees are interested in opportunities to streamline the permit process by transferring oversight responsibilities from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office of Controlled Substances Administration to the Board of Physicians or by changing parameters of the permit requirement. This language restricts funding for administrative purposes pending a joint report from MDH and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on the current dispensing permit process and impact of changes to the process.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on physician dispensing permit process	MDH OAG	September 1, 2024

Amendment No.

50

M00F03
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

M00F03.01 Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Services

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

, provided that ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$4,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon passage of legislation establishing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.

Explanation: This action is technical and amends language that makes the funding for the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention contingent on the enactment of legislation. A separate action reduces the funding for the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention to provide \$4,000,000.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds for the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention based on the October 1, 2024, effective date, startup delays, and May 2025 submittal date of a State Plan intended to guide the center’s work. A separate action modifies the language establishing the contingent appropriation to align with this reduction.	-6,000,000	GF
Total Change	-6,000,000	0.00

M00F03

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	350.80	350.80		0.00
General Fund	34,028,628	28,028,628	-6,000,000	
Special Fund	40,771,080	40,771,080	0	
Federal Fund	131,070,969	131,070,969	0	
Total Funds	205,870,677	199,870,677	-6,000,000	

Amendment No.

51

Committee Narrative

Efforts to Fill Long-term Vacant Positions: As of February 9, 2024, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) reported 39 vacancies, with 4 positions being vacant for more than one year. The committees request that MDH submit a report regarding the 4 long-term vacant positions, including:

- the status of the positions, indicating if the positions have been filled as of the submission of the report;
- if applicable, candidates’ actual or anticipated start dates; and
- recruitment strategies used to fill the positions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on status of long-term vacant positions in PHPA	MDH	July 1, 2024

M00F03

Budget Amendments

M00F03.04 Family Health and Chronic Disease Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report on performance measures and evaluation of the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program. The report shall include, for fiscal 2023 through 2025 year to date:

- (1) a list of grantees by local jurisdiction;
- (2) a description of how each grant award was spent or will be spent;
- (3) performance measures and data collected from each grantee; and
- (4) a description of the department's evaluation activities and performance goals to assess the effectiveness of the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program.

The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of 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.

Explanation: This language restricts funding for administrative purposes until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report on performance measures and evaluation of the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program administered by the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on performance monitoring of the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program	MDH	October 1, 2024

Amendment No.

52

M00F03

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of program direction in the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report on the administration of the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund. The report shall include:

- (1) the status of regulations to determine allocations from the fund;
- (2) a description of the criteria for determining fund allocations;
- (3) a list of grantees receiving awards;
- (4) a description of the planned uses of each grant award;
- (5) the actual or estimated date that each grant was distributed to the grantee; and
- (6) if no awards have been distributed, a timeline for beginning distribution of grants in fiscal 2025.

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 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.

Explanation: Chapters 253 and 254 of 2022 established the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund and required the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to administer the fund to distribute pediatric cancer research grants, which could also support prevention and treatment. This language restricts funding for program direction until MDH submits a report on the administration of the Pediatric Cancer Fund.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund administration	MDH	November 1, 2024

Amendment No.

53

M00F03

Committee Narrative

Performance Measures Related to Public Health Effects of Adult-use Cannabis: Chapter 26 of 2022 (Cannabis Reform) established the Cannabis Public Health Fund within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) and charged PHPA with administering the fund to address the health effects associated with the legalization of adult-use cannabis. Considering this new State investment in cannabis-related public health activities, the committees request that PHPA submit a report detailing goals, objectives, and performance measures and outcomes related to public health effects of adult-use cannabis legalization that will be incorporated into future annual Managing for Results (MFR) submissions. Performance measures should include, but not be limited to, the prevalence of cannabis use among Maryland adults and youth shown separately. The report should include actual fiscal 2024 data for each planned performance measure related to the public health effects of adult-use cannabis legalization and a timeline for inclusion of the selected performance measures in MFR submissions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Performance goals and measures related to public health effects of adult-use cannabis legalization	MDH	November 1, 2024

VIP Kids Program Administration: Beginning in fiscal 2024, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) transitioned administration of the VIP Kids program under the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration from the Coordinating Center to a grant program for local health departments (LHD) to apply for funding to offer services under the program. The committees are concerned that this transition has potentially led to children formerly served by the program losing access. The committees request that MDH submit a report on the transition of the program from the Coordinating Center to LHDs, including:

- actual fiscal 2023 and 2024 expenditures on the VIP Kids program by fund type;
- the locations of program sites and program coverage areas by local jurisdiction before and after the transition;
- the number of children served by the VIP Kids program by jurisdiction before and after the transition;
- a description of MDH's efforts to connect program participants served by the Coordinating Center with programs administered by LHDs;

M00F03

- a list of LHDs that applied for grants and a list of LHDs that received grants through the program in fiscal 2024 and 2025;
- the reasons that LHDs chose not to apply for grants under the program; and
- a description of any efforts taken by MDH to encourage LHDs to apply for grants, inform LHDs of the availability of grants, and to provide technical assistance.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on VIP Kids program administration	MDH	October 1, 2024

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

M00L01.01 Program Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$125,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits two reports to the budget committees on the recoupment and forgiveness of overpayments to providers, and the transition to a new Administrative Services Organization (ASO). The first report shall include:

- (1) the status of completion of recoupment as of July 1, 2024, and if not yet completed, the report should include estimated date of completion;
- (2) the ending balance as of July 1, 2024, if process not yet completed;
- (3) the final amount recouped and forgiven at time of completion;
- (4) a brief explanation of the rationale behind forgiving providers, if provided;
- (5) a summary of the transition plan for the new ASO, including a timeline of key milestones in the transition process; and
- (6) concerns or risks anticipated with this transition and how MDH plans to address these concerns.

The second report shall include:

- (1) a summary of the transition plan for the new ASO, including a timeline of key milestones in the transition process; and
- (2) concerns or risks anticipated with this transition and how MDH plans to address these concerns.

The first report shall be submitted by August 1, 2024, and the second report shall be submitted by December 1, 2024. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of

M00L

the second 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: Untimely and inaccurate provider payments issued by the Administrative Services Organization ASO led to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) issuing provider reimbursements based on prior year estimates, resulting in the overpayment of some providers. Since fiscal 2021, MDH has been recouping and forgiving overpayments to reduce the balance owed to the State. As of January 2023, the balance was \$112 million, and MDH reported that it planned to complete the recoupment and forgiveness process by December 31, 2023. Language in the fiscal 2024 Budget Bill restricted funds pending a report providing an update on the status of recoupment. The report has not yet been submitted, and MDH has indicated recoupment will continue through the end of fiscal 2024. In addition, because the transition to the current ASO vendor resulted in significant complications with provider reimbursements, the committees are concerned about the transition to the new ASO. This language restricts funds until MDH submits a report by August 1, 2024, that provides an update on the overpayments and progress toward completing recoupment, as well as information on the transition plan and a second report providing an updating on the transition plan.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on recoupment, forgiveness, and ASO transition	Behavioral Health Administration	August 1, 2024 December 1, 2024

Amendment No.

54

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits three reports to the budget committees on reimbursements to non-Medicaid providers. The reports shall include provider reimbursement spending in M00L01.02 and M00L01.03, separated by service type. The reports shall include data through September 1 for the first report, December 31 for the second report, and March 31 for the third report. The data shall be provided for fiscal 2025 and the same period for the two prior fiscal years. The first report shall also include final fiscal 2024 data by service type separately for M00L01.02 and M00L01.03 along with the data for the prior two fiscal years. The first report shall be submitted by September 30, 2024, the second report by January 20, 2025, and the third report by April 20, 2025, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the third 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

M00L

purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The committees are interested in better understanding the spending on provider reimbursements by service type for spending outside of the Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements program. This language restricts funds pending submission of three reports on non-Medicaid provider reimbursements.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on non-Medicaid provider reimbursements	Maryland Department of Health	September 30, 2024 January 20, 2025 April 20, 2025

Amendment No.

55

Committee Narrative

Update on Long-term Vacancies: As of December 31, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) had 9 vacancies, which had been vacant for at least one year. The committees are concerned about the impact of long-term vacancies on State operations and request that BHA submit an update on its long-term vacancies, including:

- the titles and classifications of the 9 positions that had been vacant for more than one year;
- the date each position became vacant;
- the status of the 9 positions, indicating if the positions have been filled as of the submission of the report; and
- actions taken by BHA to recruit for these vacant positions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on long-term vacancies	BHA	July 1, 2024

M00L

Budget Amendments

M00L01.02 Community Services

Amend the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that ~~\$3,014,086~~ \$2,556,174 of this appropriation shall be reduced contingent upon the enactment of legislation authorizing the transfer of excess special fund balance from the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, the State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, and the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Explanation: This is a technical amendment which would modify the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) provision authorizing the use of special fund balances from three State Boards in the Behavioral Health Administration. The transfers included in the BRFA as introduced would reduce the proportion of special funds in the State Boards of Occupational Therapy Practice and Examiners of Psychologists from 198% to 68% of the allowance, and 169% to 117% of the allowance, respectively. The amended language reflects an action taken in the BRFA to reduce the total amount of special funds transferred from two of the boards to leave more balance available to the boards.

Amendment No.

56

Amend the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further, provided that \$3,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon the enactment of legislation establishing ~~county grants for~~ Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs.

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment to amend the contingent language. SB 453 and HB 576 of 2024 as introduced do not establish county grants for Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs but instead require counties to create these programs.

Amendment No.

57

Add the following language:

Further provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

M00L

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for substance use disorder treatment, uninsured treatment, or other community service grants for that purpose or for provider reimbursements in M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No.

58

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$5,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon the enactment of SB 362 or HB 352 authorizing the use of balance from the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program to support behavioral health services for individuals without medical insurance.

Explanation: Funding is available through the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP), which provides assistance to subsidize prescription medication expenses for certain Medicare-eligible individuals, because the program has experienced declining enrollment. The fiscal 2025 allowance for the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) includes \$5 million from the SPDAP special fund to provide behavioral health services to people without medical insurance. Because this is not an allowable expense in fiscal 2025 under statute, BHA will have a general fund deficit of \$5 million for this purpose unless legislation authorizes the use of these funds for behavioral health purposes. This language makes the funding contingent on the enactment of SB 362 or HB 352 authorizing the use of these funds for this purpose.

Amendment No.

59

M00L

M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients for that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No.

60

M00M
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

M00M01.02 Community Services

Add the following language:

All appropriations provided for program M00M01.02 Community Services are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose.

Explanation: The Maryland Department of Health has previously reported increasing net general fund transfers out of the Developmental Disabilities Administration Community Services program, mainly to cover shortfalls elsewhere in the department. This annual language restricts funds appropriated to the Community Services program to that use only and prevents budgetary transfers.

Amendment No.

61

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees regarding the ongoing transition to a fee-for-service reimbursement system and year-to-date expenditures for that system. The report shall include fiscal 2025 Long Term Services and Supports utilization and spending by service type (residential services, meaningful day services, personal support services, and other services), including the number of claims, the number of services provided, and the total payments for each service type by month through November 2024.

The report shall be submitted by January 1, 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 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.

Explanation: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is overhauling its Community Services system by implementing new service definitions, establishing new rates based on a fee-for-service reimbursement model, and transitioning to Medicaid's existing Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system for billing and service authorization. These changes should improve DDA's data collection and spending forecast abilities compared to the current prospective payment model. This language restricts funds budgeted for administration until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on the

M00M

transition to the LTSS system and spending forecasts following the transition to a new rate structure. Since DDA anticipates completing the transition by September 1, 2024, DDA should also provide year-to-date spending data in LTSS by service type once all providers are transitioned to LTSS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on year-to-date spending data in the LTSS system	MDH	January 1, 2025

Amendment No.

62

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report including:

- (1) the amounts of the upfront lump sum payments to providers in fiscal 2023 and fiscal 2024 during the provider transition to the Long Term Services and Supports system;
- (2) the reason for the additional upfront lump sum payments; and
- (3) the status, plan, and timeline for recouping duplicate payments.

The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending 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.

Explanation: The Developmental Disabilities Administration had increased expenditures in fiscal 2023 due to additional provider payments during the transition to Medicaid's existing Long Term Services and Supports system for billing and service authorization. This language restricts funds budgeted for administration until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on the upfront lump sum payments during this transition and the plan for recouping advance payments.

M00M

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on upfront lump sum payments and plan to recoup advance payments

MDH

October 1, 2024

Amendment No.

63

M00Q01
Medical Care Programs Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendments

M00Q01.01 Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Maryland Department of Health Medical Care Programs Administration (MCPA) 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) MCPA 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	MCPA	45 days before the release of funds

Amendment No.

64

M00Q01

M00Q01.02 Office of Enterprise Technology – Medicaid

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$216,845 contingent upon the enactment of legislation ~~extending the spending authority of the Integrated Care Network Fund into fiscal 2025~~ authorizing the transfer of excess special fund balance from the Health Information Exchange Fund in fiscal 2025.

Explanation: This action is a technical correction to amend contingent language reducing general funds to refer to the Health Information Exchange Fund and to make the reduction contingent on legislation authorizing the transfer of special fund balance in fiscal 2025.

Amendment No.

65

Strike the following language on the federal fund appropriation:

~~, provided that \$216,845 of this appropriation is contingent upon the enactment of legislation extending the spending authority of the Integrated Care Network Fund into fiscal 2025.~~

Explanation: This action strikes contingent language on the federal fund appropriation for the Office of Enterprise Technology as a technical correction. The language specifies that \$216,845 in federal funds are contingent on legislation extending the spending authority of the Integrated Care Network Fund, which is a special fund.

Amendment No.

66

M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements

Add the following language:

Provided that all appropriations provided for program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to program M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted or canceled.

M00Q01

Explanation: This language restricts funding for Medical Care Provider Reimbursements to that purpose only and prevents budgetary transfers to any program except M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program.

Amendment No.

67

Committee Narrative

Community First Choice (CFC) Program and Home and Community-based Options (Community Options) Waiver Financial and Registry Data: Recent efforts to expand home and community-based services have led to significant increases in CFC program expenditures, including spending under the Community Options waiver. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a report on CFC program spending. The report should include monthly enrollment, utilization, and cost data that aligns with actual fiscal 2024 and year-to-date fiscal 2025 budget expenditures under the CFC program. Additionally, the report should provide:

- the number of Community Options waiver slots filled and funded in fiscal 2024 and 2025 year to date;
- the number of Community Options waiver applications sent to individuals on the registry each month and the results of that outreach (including the number of applications returned and processed);
- an update on changes to registry operations to improve efficiency in taking individuals off of the registry and efforts to determine financial and medical eligibility for individuals while they remain on the registry;
- an update on MDH staffing supporting the Community Options waiver, including the number of vacant regular and contractual positions and the status of procuring additional staffing assistance;
- the number of individuals on the Community Options waiver registry as of June 30, 2024;
- an update on activities or efforts to implement the plan to reduce the Community Options waiver registry by 50% submitted to the General Assembly in February 2023; and
- details regarding the timing and amount of funds transferred from the Dedicated Purpose Account for End the Wait initiatives and to improve provider capacity.

M00Q01

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CFC program and Community Options waiver financial and registry data	MDH	August 1, 2024

Quarterly Medicaid Enrollment Change and Application Processing: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will complete its 12-month unwinding process following the COVID-19 public health emergency on April 1, 2024, in which the department redetermined all Medicaid and Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) participants’ eligibility. To continue to monitor the redetermination process after the unwinding period, the committees request that MDH submit quarterly reports with the following enrollment data on a monthly basis and divided by eligibility category:

- the number of eligibility renewals completed, including the number and share that were automatically renewed;
- the number of new individuals enrolled;
- measures of churn that reflect the number of individuals enrolled who previously received Medicaid or MCHP coverage and the timeframe of when they were last enrolled; and
- the number of individuals disenrolled, shown by reason for disenrollment, identifying procedural disenrollments and disenrollments due to overscaled income, aging out, and other common reasons for disenrollment.

Additionally, the committees request that the quarterly reports include the following administrative data on a monthly basis:

- call center volume, average wait times, and any other data related to call center activities that are required to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and
- measures of application processing times and the total number of applications processed for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) cases and non-MAGI cases shown separately.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly reports on Medicaid and MCHP enrollment and applications	MDH	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025

M00Q01

Recruitment and Retention of Anesthesiologists in Maryland: The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) in coordination with the Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists study barriers in the recruitment and retention of anesthesiologists. The study should also include recommendations to eliminate identified barriers. Additionally, the committees request that the agencies submit a joint report that outlines the findings and recommendations resulting from the study. The report should include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- the proportion of anesthesiologists' patient mix in hospital settings and ambulatory surgical facilities across Maryland that are covered by public payers;
- the average commercial payment rate for anesthesiologists nationally and in Maryland;
- the average commercial payment rate for anesthesiologists compared to current Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates;
- a comparison of the average commercial payment rates for anesthesiologists and other physicians as a percentage of Medicare reimbursement rates;
- a description of other compensation provided to anesthesiologists that is not included in reimbursement rates, such as stipends;
- the number of anesthesia groups, hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, and any other settings where anesthesia is provided that have hired temporary or contractual staffing for anesthesiologists;
- impacts of current commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid reimbursement rates for anesthesiologists on recruitment and retention efforts; and
- impacts of current commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid reimbursement rates for anesthesiologists on hospital and other care settings' access to anesthesia services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on recruitment and retention of anesthesiologists in Maryland	MDH MHCC HSCRC	December 15, 2024

Reimbursement for Maternal Fetal Medicine: The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), study reimbursement

M00Q01

rates under the Medicaid program for services provided by maternal fetal medicine specialists. In order to assist MDH in completing this study, the committees request that MHCC and HSCRC provide all payer claim data to MDH that is necessary to complete the study. Additionally, the committees request that MDH submit a report that outlines the findings resulting from the study. The report should include the following information:

- the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes billed by physicians identified as maternal fetal medicine specialists under Medicaid;
- the timing of when Medicaid reimbursement rates for each CPT code identified was last adjusted;
- the number of claims and funding amounts that have been billed through Medicaid for the identified CPT codes;
- demographic information for Medicaid participants receiving services billed as the identified CPT codes;
- the volume of claims billed through commercial insurers for the identified CPT codes; and
- a comparison of Medicaid, Medicare, and average commercial reimbursement rates for the identified CPT codes.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on reimbursement of maternal fetal medicine	MDH MHCC HSCRC	December 15, 2024

Nursing Home Participation in Medicaid and Reported Revenues: The committees are interested in nursing home participation in the Medicaid program and revenue by geographic area. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a report on nursing homes serving Medicaid participants. The report should provide data for nursing homes participating in Medicaid, including revenue by local jurisdiction and for-profit and not-for-profit status.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on nursing home Medicaid participation and revenue	MDH	December 15, 2024

M00Q01

Proposed Federal Rule on Medicaid Long-term Care Data Reporting: In spring 2023, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published a proposed rule referred to as Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services, which would create new home and community-based services (HCBS) data reporting requirements among other changes. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a report detailing the provisions in the final rule and plans to operationalize the rule in Maryland. In addition, the report should include the process that MDH will take to collect and report the following information from long-term care providers generally (nursing home and HCBS providers):

- revenues allocated to salaries and wages of all direct care workforce nonadministrative staff, including registered nurses (RN), licensed practical nurses (LPN), certified nurse aides, noncertified or resident care aides, directors of nurses, and in-house clerical staff who regularly interact with residents, program participants, and caregivers; and
- revenues allocated to contracted nursing care services.

The report should also include a review of the average hourly wage rate for private duty nursing services, including RNs and LPNs, in nearby states and the labor market overall. Finally, the report should discuss licensure requirements for residential service agencies to provide RN oversight, outlining the scope of work, associated costs, and coverage of these costs in provider reimbursement rates.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on federal rule on long-term care data reporting	MDH	Within 180 days of the release of the final federal rule

Medicaid Reimbursement of School-based Behavioral Health Services: The committees are interested in the Maryland Department of Health’s (MDH) efforts to expand Medicaid reimbursement of school-based behavioral health services. The committees request that MDH submit a report providing an update on federal approval and implementation of this expansion. The report should outline, if applicable:

- differences in rates for community-based and school-based behavioral health services reimbursed by Medicaid;
- differences in authorization and billing processes for community-based and school-based behavioral health services reimbursed by Medicaid;
- differences in provider credentials and requirements for community-based and school-based behavioral health services reimbursed by Medicaid;

M00Q01

- potential impacts of the expansion on the community behavioral health workforce and recommendations to mitigate any negative effects; and
- potential impacts of the expansion on access to community-based behavioral health services and recommendations to increase access to services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Medicaid reimbursement of school-based behavioral health services	MDH	January 15, 2025

End the Wait Initiatives to Increase Provider Capacity: Chapter 464 of 2022 (the End the Wait Act) required the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop plans to reduce the waitlists for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver programs by 50% beginning in fiscal 2024. MDH indicated that wait lists and registries for HCBS waiver programs have grown, and some authorized slots have not been filled due to the limited capacity of the HCBS provider network. Funding is included in the fiscal 2024 and 2025 budgets for end the wait initiatives, and a portion of the funds are specifically allocated to improve HCBS provider capacity. The committees request that MDH submit a report on end the wait initiatives, including:

- the efforts taken in fiscal 2024 and 2025 year to date to implement the HCBS waiver reduction plans;
- an analysis of the extent of Medicaid HCBS provider capacity shortages, detailing the Medicaid HCBS waiver programs and local jurisdictions with the lowest supply of available slots and providers; and
- actual uses of funding in fiscal 2024 and planned uses of funding in fiscal 2025 to improve HCBS provider capacity; and
- any other efforts by MDH to improve HCBS provider capacity.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on end the wait initiatives related to provider capacity	MDH	October 1, 2024

M00Q01

Budget Amendments

M00Q01.04 Benefits Management and Provider Services

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.	-77,392 GF -213,365 FF	
Total Change	-290,757	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	323.50	323.50		0.00
General Fund	21,557,673	21,480,281	-77,392	
Federal Fund	57,845,927	57,632,562	-213,365	
Total Funds	79,403,600	79,112,843	-290,757	

Amendment No.

68

M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program

Add the following language:

Provided that all appropriations provided for program M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted or canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts funding for the Maryland Children’s Health Program to that purpose only and prevents budgetary transfers to any program except M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No.

69

M00Q01

M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements to that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No.

70

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

M00R01.01 Maryland Health Care Commission

Private Payer Coverage of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities: The committees are interested in understanding individuals' access to services provided at ambulatory surgical facilities paid for by private payers. The committees request that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) conduct a comprehensive study on the policies and procedures for including ambulatory surgical facilities in private payer plans. Additionally, the committees request that MHCC submit a report with findings and recommendations resulting from the study. The report should include:

- a detailed analysis of the cost differential between procedures performed in hospitals and procedures performed in freestanding facilities; and
- an assessment of the impact of integrating ambulatory surgical facilities with Total Cost of Care model agreements.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on private payer coverage of ambulatory surgery centers	MHCC	September 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

M00R01.02 Health Services Cost Review Commission

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$125,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) may not be expended until HSCRC, in consultation with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), submits a report evaluating findings and recommendations from the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland. Specifically, the report should discuss:

- (1) the difference in incremental trauma expenses and standby payments incorporated in regulated hospital rates versus actual incremental trauma costs and standby costs that are subject to HSCRC rate regulation;

M00R01

- (2) plans to audit annual supplemental schedules of regulated trauma costs provided to HSCRC by trauma hospitals;
- (3) pending the results of the audit, efforts to ensure all regulated costs for the four primary specialties are accounted for in regulated hospital rates;
- (4) plans to consider covering additional incremental costs that are subject to HSCRC rate regulation;
- (5) the status of aligning data systems with the Maryland Health Care Commission and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to enable more complete analysis of trauma care and costs; and
- (6) specific timelines for implementing recommendations made by the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland.

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

Explanation: Chapters 341 and 342 of 2023 established the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland to study the adequacy of trauma center funding. This language restricts funding for administrative purposes until HSCRC, in consultation with MHCC, submits a report evaluating findings and recommendations from the Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on trauma center funding recommendations	HSCRC MHCC	October 1, 2024

Amendment No. **71**

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Health Services Cost Review Commission within the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems support the continuation of a workgroup to discuss, monitor, and assess emergency department and hospital throughput. The workgroup shall be administered by a third-party consultant and shall involve stakeholder participation, including providers, payers, and patients. The workgroup shall meet through the end of calendar 2025 and

M00R01

submit an interim report by December 1, 2024, and a final report by December 1, 2025, to the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee. The interim and final reports shall outline the workgroup’s findings and proposed recommendations.

Explanation: In calendar 2023, a hospital throughput workgroup administered by the Maryland Hospital Association began meeting. This language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) support the continuation of a workgroup on emergency department and hospital throughput that is administered by a third-party consultant. This language further details the General Assembly’s intent that the workgroup meet through the end of calendar 2025 and submit an interim report by December 1, 2024, and a final report by December 1, 2025, to the Senate Finance committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation committee, the House Health and Government Operations committee, and the House Appropriations committee.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Interim report of the Emergency Department and Hospital Throughput Workgroup	HSCRC MIEMSS	December 1, 2024
Final report of the Emergency Department and Hospital Throughput Workgroup	HSCRC MIEMSS	December 1, 2025

Amendment No.

72

Committee Narrative

Evaluation of the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) and Update on Outcome Based Credits: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) have indicated that an independent evaluation is being conducted for the MDPCP. Given the role of the MDPCP in transforming care in the State under the Total Cost of Care model, the committees request that HSCRC, in consultation with the MDPCP Project Management Office within MDH, provide the independent evaluation of the MDPCP to the committees. The independent evaluation should include information on the effectiveness of the program. In particular, this evaluation should outline cost savings from the MDPCP reducing unnecessary utilization or hospitalization for patients participating in the MDPCP over the increased expenditures from provider incentives. Further, given the anticipated benefits that the

M00R01

outcome-based credits have on total cost of care metrics, the committees request information on the amount that outcome-based credits have discounted costs and MDPCP's contribution to the achievement and maximization of the current and future outcome-based credits and other population health goals. If the independent evaluation does not include this specified information, then HSCRC and MDH should provide supplemental materials to the committees with the requested information. In addition to the independent evaluation, HSCRC should also provide an update on the timing of federal approval for the two remaining outcome-based credits and results for the outcome-based credit related to diabetes prevention.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Evaluation of the MDPCP and status of outcome-based credits	HSCRC MDH	October 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

M00R01.03 Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports within the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC) procure a closed-loop referral and data reporting platform. The platform shall ensure individuals are referred to appropriate behavioral health services and allow MCHRC to ensure that services have been rendered through accurate, consistent, and timely submission of key reporting metrics associated with Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports programs. In procuring the closed-loop referral platform, MCHRC shall account for:

- (1) the scalability of the platform;
- (2) the ease of implementation for community providers;
- (3) person-centered longitudinal records;
- (4) bi-directional referral capabilities; and
- (5) reporting and analytics tools available.

M00R01

Explanation: Chapter 36 of 2021 (the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation) established the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports within MCHRC to develop partnerships to meet student behavioral health needs and other related challenges. The fiscal 2025 budget includes \$110 million in special funds from the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund for Consortium activities, with increased minimum funding levels required in future fiscal years. Given the scale of this investment, the General Assembly is interested in ensuring that relevant technology infrastructure is put in place to allow appropriate data elements to be collected for each grantee and reported in a standardized electronic format to the consortium on a regular basis. This language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that the consortium within MCHRC procure a closed-loop referral and data reporting platform to promote consistent reporting and allow the evaluation of the effectiveness of consortium spending while identifying gaps in behavioral health service areas.

Amendment No.

73

Committee Narrative

Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports Grants: Chapter 36 of 2021 (the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation) established the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports within the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC) to develop coordinated community supports partnerships and administer grants to meet students’ holistic behavioral health needs. The committees are interested in monitoring the over \$110 million in Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund expenditures for this purpose in fiscal 2024 and 2025. The committees request that MCHRC submit a report on consortium grants, including:

- grantees, by jurisdiction and use of funding, that received consortium grants in fiscal 2024 and 2025 year to date;
- the amount of Blueprint funding distributed as of July 1, 2024, remaining funds that were carried over for use in future fiscal years, and the amount of canceled funding that will be available for future awards;
- the number of students and schools to be served by each grantee or project;
- an update on the amount of Consortium grant funding spent on new authorized uses that are contingent on the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024; and
- the timing for award and distribution of grants using Consortium funding allocated in fiscal 2025.

M00R01

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Consortium grants	MCHRC	November 1, 2024

N00A01
Office of the Secretary
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

N00A01.01 Office of the Secretary

Maryland Total Human-services Integrated Network (MD THINK) Status and Utilization of Resources: The Department of Human Services (DHS) has encountered several challenges during the implementation of the MD THINK program. The committees request that DHS submit a report providing information on the program’s implementation status, including:

- an updated timeline detailing the status of past, present, and future phases of the MD THINK project;
- details of the allocation and utilization of financial resources within the program for fiscal 2023, 2024, and 2025;
- impact of the implemented improvement efforts on the overall functionality and efficiency of the MD THINK program, including providing insights into how these changes have reduced system errors, improved user experience, and altered project timelines;
- an updated list of non-DHS agencies that have transitioned, or plan to transition, to the MD THINK platform, implementation timeline and cost estimates for the transition phase for each agency; and
- details on upcoming initiatives or strategies aimed at achieving long-term functionality.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MD THINK status and utilization	DHS	December 15, 2024

Report on Department of Human Services (DHS) Administration Efforts to Fill Vacant Positions: As of December 31, 2023, DHS Administration had 66 vacant positions, 13 of which had been unfilled for more than one year. Given recent departmentwide efforts to bolster employee recruitment, the committees are interested in monitoring vacancies within the DHS Administration. The committees request that DHS submit a report that should include:

- status of 13 positions that have been vacant for more than one year;

N00A01

- planned or enacted changes to vacant positions, including reclassifications and position terminations; and
- active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on DHS Administration to fill vacant positions	DHS	August 1, 2024

N00B
Social Services Administration
Department of Human Services

Budget Amendments

N00B00.04 General Administration – State

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency’s administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) DHS 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 (JAEC) has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

If OLA reports that an agency failed to completely resolve or make adequate progress toward resolving those repeat audit findings, JAEC requests that \$250,000 in general funds is withheld from each agency’s appropriation in the fiscal year following the OLA report until more satisfactory progress has been made toward resolution of those repeat findings.

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

Amendment No. 74

N00B

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report to the budget committees on the number of child welfare services cases and positions required based on the caseload to meet the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) caseload standards, by jurisdiction, for the following caseload types, as of September 1, 2024:

- (1) intake screening;
- (2) child protective investigation;
- (3) consolidated in-home services;
- (4) interagency family preservation services;
- (5) services to families with children - intake;
- (6) foster care;
- (7) kinship care;
- (8) family foster care;
- (9) family foster homes - recruitment and new applications;
- (10) family foster homes - ongoing and licensing;
- (11) adoption;
- (12) interstate compact for the placement of children; and
- (13) caseworker supervision.

The report shall also include a discussion of specific actions taken by the department and local departments of social services to reallocate positions, including the number of positions reallocated by type (caseworker or supervisor) between jurisdictions and identifying the jurisdictions that these positions were transferred from and to, in order to ensure that all jurisdictions can meet the standards for both caseworkers and supervisors.

The report shall also include an update on the status of work done by CWLA to develop new workload standards for child welfare staffing, the completion by DHS of its child welfare workforce analysis, and broader efforts by DHS to improve recruitment and retention of caseworkers.

N00B

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.

Explanation: The committees believe that maintaining an adequate child welfare workforce is essential to improving outcomes for children entering the State’s care. In order to maintain oversight over this issue, the committees have adopted annual narrative in recent years requesting that DHS provide a report on the number of cases and positions required based on the caseload to meet CWLA caseload standards. This language withholds funding until a report with data related to the CWLA caseload standards is submitted, which contains current data as of September 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on caseload data and filled positions assigned by jurisdiction for specified caseload types	DHS	November 1, 2024

Amendment No.

75

Committee Narrative

Hospital Stays by Youth in Out-of-home Placements: The committees continue to be concerned about children and youth experiencing stays in emergency rooms or inpatient hospital settings longer than is medically necessary. Data has been requested on hospital stays by children and youth in out-of-home placements for several years. In an effort to continue to monitor this issue, the committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report that provides data for each month of the period October 2023 through September 2024 on:

- the number of youth in out-of-home placement served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and the average length of stay (ALOS) by month;
- the number of youth in out-of-home placement served separately by medical hospitals and inpatient psychiatric hospitals and ALOS by month;
- the number of days that youth in out-of-home placements served in hospitals were in the hospital longer than was deemed medically necessary by either the hospital or a judicial finding separately by type of hospital; and

N00B

- the placement type after discharge separately by type of hospital, including identifying the number of youths placed out-of-state after discharge for fiscal 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on hospital stays, ALOS, and placement after discharge	DHS	December 1, 2024

Implementation of Provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): The committees are interested in continuing to receive updates on the implementation of evidence-based prevention practices and other services under provisions of the federal FFPSA, and the outcomes of those programs and services for families and children served. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report including:

- a list of all evidence-based practices being implemented through fiscal 2024, including data on jurisdiction and the number of families and children served during the fiscal year;
- any new evidence-based practices being implemented during fiscal 2025;
- the status of the updated five-year Title IV-E prevention services plan;
- data on the effectiveness of implemented evidence-based practices at preventing occurrences of subsequent maltreatment and out-of-home placements from occurring as well as an evaluation of any other outcomes related to parent and child well-being;
- the current number of providers in the State that have received designation as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) to allow for federal reimbursement under the FFPSA, including if any additional providers received this designation during fiscal 2024 and if future solicitations of applications for QRTP designation are planned;
- the status of the approval of the State’s revised cost allocation plan, including a discussion of the current ability of DHS to seek federal reimbursement for evidence-based prevention practices; and
- the number of children and families served, and outcomes achieved through the Center for Excellence in Resource Family Development in fiscal 2024.

N00B

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on the implementation of provisions of the federal FFPSA	DHS	November 1, 2024

N00G00
Local Department Operations
Department of Human Services

Budget Amendments

N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose. Funds not expended shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This annual language restricts general funds appropriated for foster care maintenance payments to that use only. This restriction prevents a transfer of general funds to other programs that might create or increase a deficit in spending in the Foster Care Maintenance Payments program (N00G00.01).

Amendment No.

76

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of rate reform and provider rate increases may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report to the budget committees on the implementation of the new foster care provider rate structure for providers who have rates set by the Interagency Rates Committee. The report shall include details on the use of funding included in the fiscal 2025 allowance for this purpose, including the individual purposes that this funding will be used to support, and an updated timeline on when each component of the new provider rate structure will be implemented. The report shall also include an update on the approval of amendments to the State Medicaid Plan to allow for clinical care costs to be eligible for reimbursement and when federal reimbursement will be able to be first sought for these costs. In addition, the report shall discuss the use of the funding for provider rate increases including how the funding included in the fiscal 2025 allowance will be used in conjunction with funding supporting rate reform or otherwise. 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: The fiscal 2025 allowance for the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration includes \$28.3 million to fund implementation efforts of a new provider rate structure, in addition to \$12 million provided for rate increases. However, no details have been provided about how the funding will support the rate reform effort. This language restricts

N00G00

funds until DHS submits a report on the implementation of the new foster care provider rate structure, and details on the specific uses of funds included in the fiscal 2025 allowance for this purpose, and how separate funding related to a provider rate increase will support these efforts. The language also requires an updated timeline on when DHS estimates that various components of the new provider rate structure will be implemented. DHS is encouraged to submit the report well in advance of July 1, 2024 so the funds for rate increases can be released prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the new foster care provider rate structure	DHS	July 1, 2024

Amendment No.

77

N00G00.02 Local Family Investment Program

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$950,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of two-generation model grant may be expended only to provide a grant for a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) association that advocates on behalf of community action agencies and partnering organizations that serve individuals and families with low incomes who reside in Maryland to support the transition of community action agencies or other community organizations to a two-generation model of service delivery. Support may include technical assistance, strategic planning, enhanced data management, and management of information systems. 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. Further provided that the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the budget committees on the effectiveness of the grant program, including information on the uses of the program funding from fiscal 2020 through 2025 year-to-date, in supporting the community action agencies and community organizations in the transition to a two-generation model. The report shall provide information on the plans to continue to fund the program. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by December 1, 2024.

Explanation: This language restricts funds intended to be used for a grant to support the two-generation model to be used for a grant to an entity to support community action agencies or other community organizations as the organizations transition to a two-generation model of service delivery. The language also requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to submit a report on the effectiveness of the program and uses of the funding for the program since its first funding in fiscal 2020.

N00G00

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Effectiveness and use of two-generation model grant	DHS	December 1, 2024

Amendment No.

78

N00G00.03 Child Welfare Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to program N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments. Funds not expended or transferred shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This annual language restricts general funds appropriated for the Child Welfare Services program to that use only or for transfer to N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments.

Amendment No.

79

N00G00.08 Assistance Payments

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments or N00G00.03 Child Welfare Services for the purpose of replacing federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families fund spending and to program N00I00.04 Director's Office for the purpose of transferring administrative spending for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program. Funds not expended shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts the general funds appropriated for the Assistance Payments program, which support public benefit programs administered by the Department of Humans Services, to that use only with two exceptions. The first exception is to allow general funds to be transferred to the Foster Care Maintenance Program or Child Welfare Services program to replace Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) fund spending. The freed up TANF could then be spent in Assistance Payments for Temporary Cash Assistance benefits. The second exception would authorize transfers to the Director's Office for

N00G00

administrative funding for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program. Language to require this transfer is included in separate actions. This restriction prevents a transfer of general funds to other programs. This language is consistent with actions on other entitlement programs.

Amendment No. **80**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$9,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to program N00I00.04 Director's Office to be used only for administrative expenses for the Summer EBT program. 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 \$9.0 million in general funds under the Summer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Children program that the Department of Human Services indicates will be used for administration of the Summer EBT program. The Assistance Payments program is used for benefit payments only. This language would require a transfer of these funds to the Director's Office to be used for the same purpose.

Amendment No. **81**

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for replacement benefits due to Electronic Benefit Transfer theft for cash benefit replacement due to lower estimated spending. The fiscal 2025 allowance includes \$15.4 million in general funds for replacement of cash benefits. Based on caseload trends, less than \$5.0 million is projected to be needed. A reduction of \$7.5 million would still allow for growth over current trends.	-7,500,000	GF
2. Reduce special funds representing the estimated local match for the Summer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Children program. Although this level of local match is consistent with recent experience, the Department of Human Services indicates that the general funds budgeted in this	-1,555,692	SF

N00G00

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

program are instead intended for administrative costs for the federal Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program, which does not require a local match. Therefore, these funds are not expected to be received or expended.

Funds

Positions

Total Change -209,055,692 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	136,891,259	129,391,259	-7,500,000	
Special Fund	10,308,633	8,752,941	-1,555,692	
Federal Fund	2,245,185,865	2,045,185,865	-200,000,000	
Total Funds	2,392,385,757	2,183,330,065	-209,055,692	

Amendment No. **82**

Add the following language to the federal fund appropriation:

, provided that \$9,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to program N00I00.04 Director’s Office to be used only for administrative expenses for the Summer EBT program. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled.

Explanation: The fiscal 2025 allowance includes \$9.0 million in federal funds that the Department of Human Services indicates will be used for administration of the Summer EBT program. The Assistance Payments program is used for benefit payments only. This language would require a transfer of these funds to the Director’s Office to be used for the same purpose.

Amendment No. **83**

N00G00

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce federal funds in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) based on lower estimated average benefits. The fiscal 2025 allowance includes \$2.06 billion for SNAP benefits. Although the average number of cases is projected to be higher than what is assumed in the fiscal 2025 allowance, the average benefit is expected to be substantially lower based on recent experience. The fiscal 2025 allowance anticipates an average monthly benefit of approximately \$488 compared to an estimated average of \$342 based on recent experience and anticipated inflationary increases. This reduction would leave anticipated surplus in the event that benefits or caseloads are higher than anticipated.	-200,000,000	FF
Total Change	-209,055,692	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	136,891,259	129,391,259	-7,500,000	
Special Fund	10,308,633	8,752,941	-1,555,692	
Federal Fund	2,245,185,865	2,045,185,865	-200,000,000	
Total Funds	2,392,385,757	2,183,330,065	-209,055,692	

Amendment No.

84

Committee Narrative

Application Processing Times, Application Denials, and Case Closures: The committees remain interested in tracking the timeliness of application processing as well as the reason for denials and case closures. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit quarterly reports that contain:

- the number of applications processed by benefit type for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) separately by month;

N00G00

- the average number of days to process applications by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;
- the percentage of applications denied by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;
- the number and percentage of applications denied by reason for denial and by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;
- the number of case closures by benefit type for TCA, TDAP, and SNAP separately by month; and
- the reasons for case closure by benefit type for TCA, TDAP, and SNAP separately by month.

The first report should include data for May 2024 through July 2024, and each subsequent report should provide data for the appropriate quarter.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
TCA, TDAP, and SNAP applications and case closures	DHS	October 5, 2024 January 5, 2025 April 5, 2025 June 30, 2025

Summer Food Benefits for Children: In November 2023, the Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted a Notice of Intent to participate in the new permanent nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program. This program will provide a benefit of \$40 per month per child for the three months in which children are out of school for those who qualify for free and reduced-price meals or meet certain other eligibility criteria. The committees are interested in monitoring the operation of the program. The committees request that DHS submit a report that:

- discusses actions taken by DHS to implement the new Summer EBT program;
- provides detail on administrative costs of the program;
- discusses efforts to work with local education agencies to implement the program;
- describes barriers or challenges faced in the implementation of the Summer EBT program;

N00G00

- describes the timing for benefits to be distributed to families, including information regarding whether it will be distributed monthly, more than once per month, or in one lump sum; and
- provides information on the number of children receiving benefits by jurisdiction and month in the Summer EBT program as well as the dollar amount of benefits provided by jurisdiction and month.

The report should also detail information regarding federal requirements for benefit distribution timelines including frequency and required dates of distributions, any flexibilities that the State has in terms of determining the dates and frequency of distribution, and any other information related to the department's final determination of the dates and frequency of benefit distribution.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Summer EBT program implementation and participation	DHS	October 1, 2024

N00H00
Child Support Administration
Department of Human Services

Budget Amendments

N00H00.08 Child Support – State

Add the following language:

Provided that \$3,655,000 in general funds and \$7,095,000 in federal funds made for the purpose of the Child Support – State program in the Department of Human Services Child Support Administration shall be reduced. The Secretary is authorized to allocate this reduction within the program. The department is authorized to process a budget amendment to replace these funds with special funds from the Child Support Reinvestment Fund.

Explanation: The department annually receives federal funding related to performance in certain measures. These funds are typically budgeted as special funds from Child Support Reinvestment Fund. Despite anticipating receipt of these funds, the fiscal 2025 budget does not include funding from this source, which leads to a higher amount of general funds than will be needed to support the program. The Child Support Reinvestment Fund does not receive a federal fund match. This language reduces a total of \$10.75 million, including \$3.66 million in general funds and \$7.10 million in federal funds in the Child Support – State program in the Department of Human Services Child Support Administration. The language authorizes these reduced funds to be replaced by Child Support Reinvestment Funds.

Amendment No.

85

Committee Narrative

Child Support Performance Reports: The federal government evaluates states' performance against five measures to determine federal incentive payments: paternity establishment; support order establishment; collections on current support; cases paying toward arrears; and cost effectiveness. Recent data from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Administration (CSA) shows that the agency is falling behind the federal performance goals in each of the five areas. Considering CSA's recent transition of its primary data system, the Child Support Management System (CSMS), to make its agency's processes and tasks more efficient, the committees are interested to understand how this new system is helping CSA achieve its performance goals.

The committees request that DHS submit three reports on performance using data as of June 30, 2024; September 30, 2024; and December 31, 2024. Each report should include the following:

N00H00

- a discussion of factors affecting performance in the quarter;
- the State’s aggregate performance set against the five performance measures used to determine federal incentive payments;
- each jurisdiction’s performance set against the five performance measures used to determine federal incentive payments;
- the number of cases in each jurisdiction in the quarter;
- specific tasks related to each of the five performance measures that are streamlined, made more efficient, or made more complicated by the new CSMS; and
- the number of staff in each jurisdiction who have been trained and those who have yet to be trained in the new CSMS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Child support performance reports	DHS	August 15, 2024 November 15, 2024 February 15, 2025

Report on Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Administration (CSA) Efforts to Fill Vacant Positions: As of December 31, 2023, DHS CSA had 51.5 vacant positions, 6 of which had been unfilled for more than one year. Given recent departmentwide efforts to bolster employee recruitment, the committees are interested in monitoring vacancies within DHS CSA. The committees request that DHS submit a report that should include:

- The status of 6 positions that have been vacant for more than one year;
- planned or enacted changes to vacant positions, including reclassifications and position terminations; and
- active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on DHS CSA to fill vacant positions	DHS	August 1, 2024

N00I00
Family Investment Administration
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

N00I00.06 Office of Home Energy Programs

Energy Assistance Application Processing Times and Denial Rates: The committees are interested in continuing to monitor energy assistance application processing times by local administering agencies (LAA) and overall program denial rates. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) provide by LAA:

- the number of applications received;
- the average number of days to process an application; and
- the number and percentage of applications processed within 30 days, 55 days, and longer than 60 days.

The report should discuss the primary reasons for any substantial changes in processing times that have occurred for individual LAAs between fiscal 2024 and 2025 year-to-date data.

In addition, the committees request that DHS provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reasons separately by benefit type. Data should include the number of applications initially denied due to incomplete information that were subsequently cured due to applicants providing missing information within the additional three months, as allowed under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2024 end-of-year actual data for denial rates should be included in the report as well as fiscal 2025 data current through November 1, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Application processing times and denial rates	DHS	December 31, 2024

Implementation of Changes in Eligibility for Energy Assistance Programs: The committees are interested in receiving updates on the impact of changes in eligibility for energy assistance programs due to Chapter 207 of 2023. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report on the status of implementation of categorical eligibility for energy assistance, including an update on the status of the integration of the Office of Home Energy Programs data system within the Eligibility and Enrollment component of the Maryland Total Human Services Integrated Network platform, and the status of ongoing system maintenance to improve customer service. Additionally, the report should include a discussion

N00100

of the number of additional households with incomes between 175% and 200% of the federal poverty level determined to be newly eligible for energy assistance benefits during the second half of fiscal 2024 and 2025, current through November 1, 2024, as a result of income eligibility changes implemented through Chapter 207 of 2023, and the adequacy of funding levels for energy assistance in the fiscal 2025 allowance to meet the increased number of recipients of benefits.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the status of implementation of categorical eligibility	DHS	January 1, 2025

Establishment of a Centralized Administrative Model for Energy Assistance: The committees are interested in receiving updates on the status of the establishment of a centralized administrative model for energy assistance programs under local departments of social services (LDSS). The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report including an updated timeline for the transition of the administration of energy assistance programs from local administering agencies to LDSS. Additionally, the report should include a discussion of the estimated changes in administrative costs resulting from this transition, any additional staffing needs of LDSS due to this transition, and where additional costs for administrative expenses or personnel will be budgeted, if additional costs are identified. Lastly, the report should discuss how LDSS will work with current non-LDSS administering agencies to complete this transition, including what role these agencies will play in the application process for energy assistance benefits following the transition to the centralized administrative model.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the transition to a centralized administrative model for energy assistance programs	DHS	January 15, 2025

Customer Service Availability for Energy Assistance Programs: The committees are interested in monitoring customer service provided to applicants for energy assistance benefits related to assistance in completing applications and responding to related inquiries regarding application status. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report discussing the availability of customer service assistance provided by telephone separately by the staff of local administering agencies (LAA) and the DHS call center, including:

- whether applicants for energy assistance benefits are to receive assistance over the telephone to complete their application, including what types of assistance may be

N00100

provided (such as, submitting required information over the telephone and the ability to submit an application and check on application status);

- the availability of LAA staff or DHS Call Center staff to respond to telephone calls from applicants, including the hours of operation that calls are received;
- the number of telephone calls received by each LAA in fiscal 2024 and the primary reasons for calls;
- the average response times for calls received;
- the number and share of calls that go to voicemail;
- the number and share of calls that are abandoned without a response or a voicemail;
- the number of inquiries made by email and average response time for an email; and
- the number of inquiries through in-person visits to local offices and average in person wait times for office visits.

For information provided regarding LAA, the information should be provided separately for each LAA.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on customer service availability for energy assistance programs	DHS	September 1, 2024

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

Committee Narrative

P00A01.09 Governor’s Workforce Development Board

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

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

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

P00

Budget Amendments

P00F01.01 Occupational and Professional Licensing

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for the Electronic Licensing Modernization project. These funds were included in the allowance in error.	-2,793,000 SF	
Total Change	-2,793,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	69.00	69.00		0.00
General Fund	368,865	368,865	0	
Special Fund	14,080,354	11,287,354	-2,793,000	
Total Funds	14,449,219	11,656,219	-2,793,000	

Amendment No.

86

Committee Narrative

P00G01.13 Adult Corrections Program

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

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

P00

- current job training and education programs, along with the numbers and profiles of incarcerated individuals participating in each;
- the number and profiles of incarcerated individuals who have jobs while in prison with MCE and others;
- the number of incarcerated individuals who gain employment immediately upon release; and
- opportunities to scale up MCE and other job opportunities while incarcerated.

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

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Prison to Honest Jobs Workgroup interim report	MDL, in consultation with DPSCS	December 1, 2024
Incarcerated individual career and training program plan	MDL, in consultation with DPSCS	December 1, 2025

Q00A
Office of the Secretary
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.

Q00A

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

Amendment No.

87

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 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. While some progress has been reported on adult apprenticeships for existing employees, the budget committees are concerned that progress is too slow 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 expanding apprenticeship pathways to mitigate labor shortages.

Q00A

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

Amendment No.

88

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

Q00A

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.

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
Correction
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

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

Amendment No.

89

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

Q00B

entire department. The report shall first include a detailed strategic plan to eliminate the need for 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.

Q00B

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

Amendment No.

90

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;

Q00B

- 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
- 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;

Q00B

- 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;
- 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;

Q00B

- 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

Q00B

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

Q00C
Division of Parole and Probation
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 Commission
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.

Q00G

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Police training fund
expenditure dates

DPSCS

August 1, 2024

Amendment No.

91

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A01.01 Office of the State Superintendent

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

- (1) a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;
- (2) details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2024-2025 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;
- (3) details on MCAP administration in the 2024-2025 school year by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;
- (4) anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;
- (5) expenditures in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2026 for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor;
- (6) information pertaining to any formal review of MCAP assessments and standards in calendar 2024 and 2025 by MSDE, by curriculum and assessment, including any anticipated changes to MCAP assessments as a result of that review and the projected costs of those changes; and
- (7) information on adaptive testing and how MSDE is working to resolve reported concerns with adaptive testing, by grade level and assessment, including actions MSDE has taken in calendar 2024 or plans to take in calendar 2025, to assist teachers in preparing students for these assessments, including actions such as providing teachers with test banks, assessment preparation materials, formative assessments, diagnostic tests, professional development, or any other materials or actions aligned with MCAP assessments.

R00A01

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

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

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

Amendment No. **92**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of the State Superintendent may not be expended until the agency submits to the budget committees by August 1, 2024, a report on the agency's enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students for fiscal 2025 (2024-2025 school year) and an accompanying dataset. This report and dataset should include the following enrollment data by local education agency (LEA) and school:

- (1) the number of eligible students (eligible enrollment);
- (2) the number of free, reduced-price, and paid meal students;
- (3) the number of direct certification students, including counts of students in all eligible categories, including students eligible for Medicaid benefits between 185% and 189% of the federal poverty level;
- (4) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enrollment, including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and
- (5) greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.

R00A01

The report should also include:

- (1) procedures used by LEAs to collect and review enrollment data to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to MSDE;
- (2) procedures used by MSDE to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to the Department of Legislative Services and the Department of Budget and Management to determine education State aid funding;
- (3) procedures used by MSDE’s Audit Office to audit these data biannually; and
- (4) if applicable, a description of changes to MSDE’s enrollment collection procedures for fiscal 2026.

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

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

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

Amendment No.

93

Committee Narrative

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

R00A01

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

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

- grant expenditures by school and program for State-mandated funds allocated to the Maryland School for the Blind, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and the School for Educational Evolution and Development;
- grant procedures, allocations, and expenditures by program for all discretionary allocations;
- expenditures by MSDE department and object for administrative costs; and
- unexpended funds by program, reasons that funds were not allocated or expended, anticipated expenditures of those funds by program for future years, and funds that may have been canceled.

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

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

- a summary of progress on Maryland Leads objectives to date;

R00A01

- LEA implementation plans by Maryland Leads subprogram;
- expenditures by LEA and subprogram for fiscal 2023 and 2024, including expenditures on personnel;
- summative assessments or outcome measures, by LEA and program, implemented to remediate student learning loss;
- documentation of improvements in literacy and math proficiency, by LEA, grade, and subprogram, as the result of Maryland Leads initiatives; and
- a plan and timeline to share updates on Maryland Leads implementation and outcomes with the public, either on the MSDE website, LEA websites, or by other means.

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

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

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

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

R00A01

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

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

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

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A02.01 State Share of Foundation Program

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter on the MOU from BCPS	BCPS	September 1, 2024

Amendment No. **94**

Committee Narrative

R00A02.07 Students With Disabilities

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

R00A02

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Nonpublic Placement program	MSDE	October 1, 2024

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

- current number of waiver slots requested and approved;
- procedures to contact individuals on the registry when slots become available;
- a timeline for the addition of slots from fiscal 2025 through 2029;
- projected costs for Autism Waiver services considering anticipated changes in the management of the Autism Waiver registry for fiscal 2025 through 2029.

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

R00A02.13 Innovative Programs

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

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

R00A02

- projected enrollment in all P-TECH programs in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;
- the total number of students who left the program in any given year and reasons for departure;
- the total number of students who have graduated by program and the percentage completion rate;
- community college courses attended by P-TECH students with cost per course per semester;
- current cost for the program in fiscal 2025 and total projected cost for the program in fiscal 2026; and
- projected average cost by student, program, and LEA for fiscal 2025 and 2026, including supplemental school and college grants by institution and LEA.

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

R00A02.59 Child Care Assistance Grants

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

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

R00A02

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on plans for a CCS waiting list	MSDE	September 1, 2024

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

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

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

R00A02

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

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

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

R00A03
Funding for Educational Organizations
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A03.04 Aid to Non-Public Schools

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be for the purchase of textbooks or computer hardware and software and other electronically delivered learning materials ~~as permitted under Title II, Section 2416(b)(4), (6), and (7) of the No Child Left Behind Act~~ for loan to students in eligible nonpublic schools with a maximum distribution of \$65 per eligible nonpublic school student for participating schools, except that at schools where ~~at least 20%~~ from 20% to 40% of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program there shall be a distribution of \$95 per student, and at schools where more than 40% of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program there shall be a distribution of \$155 per student.

Explanation: This action amends language modifying the distribution of funding for the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program so that schools where more than 40% of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program receive \$155 per student. Similar language has been included in the budget since fiscal 2017. It also strikes language regarding the No Child Left Behind Act due to technical differences with the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Amendment No.

95

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

- (2) Not charge more tuition to a participating student than the statewide average per pupil expenditure by the local education agencies, as calculated by the department, with appropriate exceptions for special education students as determined by the department; ~~and~~
- (3) Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; and
- (4) Submit its student handbook or other written policy related to student admissions to the Maryland State Department of Education for review to ensure compliance with program eligibility requirements.

R00A03

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

Amendment No.

96

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

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

Explanation: This action requires a nonpublic school participating in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program to certify compliance with Title 20, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article (Discrimination in Employment). It also specifies that a participating school may not discriminate in student admissions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Violation of these provisions means that a school will be ineligible for the program. Similar language has been included in the budget since fiscal 2017. This action also specifies that schools that violate the provisions must return all textbooks and technology received through the program to the Maryland State Department of Education. It also states that a school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements in fiscal 2024 or 2025 is not eligible to participate in the program in fiscal 2025 and states legislative intent that any

R00A03

school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements is ineligible to participate in any program that provides funding to nonpublic schools for a total of three years.

Amendment No.

97

R00A03.05 Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

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

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

- (1) the number of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;
- (2) the amount of the BOOST Program scholarships received;
- (3) the number of certified and noncertified teachers in core subject areas for each nonpublic school participating in the BOOST Program;
- (4) the assessments being administered by nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program and the results of these assessments. MSDE shall report the assessment results reported by nonpublic schools to the budget committees in an aggregate manner that does not violate student data privacy;
- (5) in the aggregate, for each BOOST Program scholarship awarded (a) the nonpublic school and grade level attended by the student; (b) the school attended in the 2023-2024 school year by the student; and (c) if the student attended the same nonpublic school in the 2023-2024 school year, whether, what type, and how much nonpublic scholarship aid the student received in the 2023-2024 school year and will receive in the 2024-2025 school year;
- (6) the average household income of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;
- (7) the racial breakdown of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;
- (8) the number of students designated as English language learners receiving BOOST Program scholarships;

R00A03

- (9) the number of special education students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;
- (10) the county in which students receiving BOOST Program scholarships reside;
- (11) the number of students who were offered BOOST Program scholarships but declined them as well as their reasons for declining the scholarships and the breakdown of students attending public and nonpublic schools for students who declined scholarships;
- (12) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year who are attending public school for the 2024-2025 school year as well as their reasons for returning to public schools; and
- (13) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools they were attending and the reasons for which they withdrew or were expelled; the schools they withdrew or were expelled from; and the length of time students receiving BOOST Program scholarships were enrolled at a nonpublic school before withdrawing or being expelled.

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

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

Amendment No.

98

R00A06
Maryland Center for School Safety
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A06.02 Maryland Center for School Safety – Grants

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds to the Maryland Center for School Safety for the School Resource Officer grant program by \$3.0 million. This reduction will be backfilled with special funds from the Safe School Fund balance.	-3,000,000	GF
2. Reduces special funds for the new Emergency Preparedness grant in the Maryland Center for School Safety. Local education agencies can fund emergency preparedness planning within their operating budgets.	-3,000,000	SF
 Total Change	 -6,000,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	13,000,000	10,000,000	-3,000,000	
Special Fund	13,600,000	10,600,000	-3,000,000	
Total Funds	26,600,000	20,600,000	-6,000,000	

Amendment No.

99

R12 Accountability and Implementation Board

Budget Amendments

R12A01.01 Accountability and Implementation Board

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submits a report to the budget committees on agency actions to implement Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) grant programs. This report shall include a timeline and detailed information on the progress in completing the following programs, reports, and measures:

- (1) fiscal 2023 and 2024 Managing for Results performance data, including collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for annual data collection and reporting of performance measures;
- (2) review of calendar 2023 and 2024 State agency Blueprint implementation plans;
- (3) collaboration with MSDE, the State Board of Education, and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to revise teacher preparation program requirements;
- (4) collaboration with MSDE to provide targeted training on Blueprint to superintendents, school administrators, senior instructional staff, and local boards of education;
- (5) progress on procuring a vendor to complete the independent evaluation of Blueprint implementation and outcomes; and
- (6) allocation, facilitation, and review of local education agency (LEA) and Career and Technology Education Committee technical assistance grants in fiscal 2023 and 2024, including grant application procedures and documentation, use of funds, roles and responsibilities of strategic facilitators, categorized expenditures by LEA, and AIB collaboration, training, and accountability measures for grantees.

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

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

R12

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on delayed activities
supporting Blueprint
implementation

AIB

September 1, 2024

Amendment No.

100

R62I00
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Budget Amendments

R62I00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency’s administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

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

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

Amendment No. **101**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses in the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) appropriation may not be

R62I00

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

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards	MHEC	December 11, 2024

Amendment No. **102**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

- (1) how often the website is updated;
- (2) frequency and types of website malfunctions;
- (3) website transparency, including regularity of use of breaking news notifications;

R62I00

- (4) an assessment of usability;
- (5) information on items posted on the website, including programs, types of research data, and description of supportive services; and
- (6) resources provided on the website to assist individuals applying for financial aid or repaying student loan debt.

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

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in understanding the information available on the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. This language restricts funds pending a report on the evaluation of the website and information on how to apply for financial aid.

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

Amendment No.

103

Committee Narrative

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

R62I00

each type of waiver in State law. This report should cover fiscal 2023 data received by MHEC from State institutions and is to be submitted in an electronic format (Excel file).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Institutional aid, Pell grants, and loan data by EFC	MHEC	July 1, 2024

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on best practices and annual progress toward the 55% completion goal	MHEC	December 15, 2024

Budget Amendments

R62I00.03 Joseph A. Sellinger Formula for Aid to Non-Public Institutions of Higher Education

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

~~; provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$63,811,002 contingent upon the enactment of legislation to reduce the grant to private colleges and universities.~~

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment that strikes a contingent reduction

Amendment No. **104**

R62I00

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that the appropriation for the Sellinger formula shall be allocated to the institutions in the following amounts:

- (1) Capitol Technology University 775,787
- (2) Goucher College 3,192,663
- (3) Hood College 3,779,139
- (4) Johns Hopkins University 20,415,674
- (5) Loyola College 13,221,791
- (6) Maryland Institute College of Art 4,259,159
- (7) McDaniel College 6,196,037
- (8) Mount St. Mary's University 5,745,188
- (9) Notre Dame of Maryland University 1,933,643
- (10) St. John's College 1,762,278
- (11) Stevenson University 9,152,632
- (12) Washington Adventist University 1,548,338
- (13) Washington College 3,111,784

Explanation: This language specifies the allocation of Sellinger funds among the Maryland Independent College and University Association institutions.

Amendment No.

105

R62I00

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the general fund appropriation for the Joseph A. Sellinger Program. This reduces funding for the Sellinger formula to \$75.1 million.	-58,810,898	GF
 Total Change	 -58,810,898	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	133,905,066	75,094,168	-58,810,898	
Total Funds	133,905,066	75,094,168	-58,810,898	

Amendment No. **104 cont.**

R62I0005
Aid to Community Colleges
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Budget Amendments

R62I00.05 The Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for the Distribution of Funds to Community Colleges

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that ~~\$22,644,092~~ \$12,739,610 of this appropriation shall be reduced contingent upon the enactment of legislation reducing the Cade formula grants to community colleges

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment to alter the contingent reduction to reflect the change to the Budget Reconciliation Financing Act of 2024, which would partially restore funding to the program by increasing the per full-time equivalent student amount distributed through the Senator John A. Cade Funding from 26.5% to 27.2%.

Amendment No. **106**

Committee Narrative

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on developmental education	MACC	November 4, 2024

Tuition Waivers and Supplemental Services: The committees are interested in better understanding the impact of tuition waivers and the cost of supplemental services and supports provided by the community colleges. The committees request that the Maryland Higher

R62I0005

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

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

R62I0010
Student Financial Assistance
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

R62I00.10 Educational Excellence Awards

Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Postsecondary Outcomes: The committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. The report should identify the number of NGS seniors for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility requirements, the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award, and the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on postsecondary outcomes for NGS senior students	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2024

R75T0001 Higher Education

Committee Narrative

R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions of Higher Education

Instructional Faculty Workload Report: The committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM) continue to provide annual instructional workload reports for tenured/tenure-track faculty. By focusing on these faculty, the committees gain a sense of the teaching activities for the regular core faculty. However, there are other types of instructional faculty at institutions, such as full- and part-time nontenured/nontenure-track faculty including adjunct faculty, instructors, and lecturers. Focusing on only tenured/tenure-track faculty provides an incomplete picture of how students are taught. Therefore, the report should also include the instructional workload when all types of faculty are considered. Additional information may be included at the institution’s discretion. Furthermore, the USM report should include the percent of faculty meeting or exceeding teaching standards for tenured/tenure-track faculty for the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual report on faculty workload	USM MSU SMCM	December 13, 2024

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

R75T0001

Information Request

Authors

Due Date

Report on calculation of
graduate FTES

USM
MSU
SMCM

September 16, 2024

R95C00
Baltimore City Community College

Committee Narrative

R95C00.00 Baltimore City Community College

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

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

R99E
Maryland School for the Deaf

Budget Amendments

R99E01.00 Services and Institutional Operations

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OLA findings	MSD	November 1, 2024

Amendment No. **107**

Committee Narrative

Report on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Scores: The KRA is a standardized test used by the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) as a Managing for Results (MFR) measure to assess students entering kindergarten in four areas: language and literacy; mathematics; social foundations; and physical well-being and motor development. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal 2019, students scored above 40% proficiency in mathematics and physical well-being and below 20% proficiency in language and literacy and social foundations. Due to pandemic-related school closures, in fiscal 2020 through 2023, students scored below 30% proficiency in all measures, with student language and literacy and social foundations scores at or below 10% proficiency. The MFR goal for this measure is for 45% of entering kindergartners to be proficient in each tested area. Due to concerns with continued lags in KRA scores, the committees request that MSD report by December 1, 2024, on actions taken by MSD, including local education

R99E

agencies and organizations that work with kindergarten students entering MSD, to improve KRA scores for entering kindergarteners in all tested areas.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on KRA scores	MSD	December 1, 2024

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

Just Communities: SB 308 and HB 241 would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to designate areas meeting certain criteria as “Just Communities” that would be eligible for prioritization for State funding under programs to be identified by the Governor. The committees request that DHCD submit a list of communities designated as Just Communities. DHCD should also report to the committees on how the department plans to communicate these designations to the public.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Just Communities designations	DHCD	Within 30 days of designation

Budget Amendments

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. The fiscal 2025 allowance includes \$1.0 million in general funds for the same purpose. This action eliminates special funds for operating assistance grants that are double budgeted.	-1,000,000	SF
Total Change	-1,000,000	0.00

S00A

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	61.00	61.00		0.00
General Fund	20,497,934	20,497,934	0	
Special Fund	14,445,615	13,445,615	-1,000,000	
Federal Fund	17,351,341	17,351,341	0	
Total Funds	52,294,890	51,294,890	-1,000,000	

Amendment No.

108

Committee Narrative

S00A21.09 Division of Broadband – Capital

Broadband Infrastructure Build-out Progress: The committees are interested in understanding the progress made by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) toward expanding broadband infrastructure in the State. To this end, the committees request that DHCD submit a report on the build-out of broadband infrastructure, including:

- the funds awarded and expended to date, including a breakdown of awards by jurisdiction;
- the funds that remain available;
- any funding leveraged through State and federal funds awarded by DHCD;
- a list of the Internet service providers that have received funding; and
- an analysis of the progress toward meeting the goals outlined in Chapter 74 of 2021 for ensuring connectivity to universal, affordable, and reliable broadband.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on broadband build-out progress	DHCD	October 1, 2024

S00A

Budget Amendments

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

S00A24.02 Neighborhood Revitalization – Capital Appropriation

Strike the following language from the general fund appropriation:

~~, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$5,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024~~

Explanation: This is a technical amendment to strike a contingency.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete general funds for the Business Façade Improvement Program that are contingently reduced by the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024. The program is fully funded using general obligation bonds.	-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	14,000,000	9,000,000	-5,000,000	
Special Fund	2,200,000	2,200,000	0	
Federal Fund	28,114,000	28,114,000	0	
Total Funds	44,314,000	39,314,000	-5,000,000	

Amendment No.

109

T00
Department of Commerce

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$96,494 of general funds, \$30,792 of special funds, and \$2,899 of federal funds of this appropriation made for the purpose of personnel expenditures shall be reduced to increase the turnover expectancy. The Department of Commerce is authorized to allocate this reduction across the agency's programs.

Explanation: This action adds language to reduce personnel expenditures in order to increase the turnover rate for existing positions within the Department of Commerce from 4.89% to 5.43%, the same level as fiscal 2024.

Amendment No. **110**

T00F00.27 Business Telework Assistance Grant Program

Amend the following language in the general fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$1,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation to eliminate the funding mandate for the Business Telework Assistance Grant Program as established under Sections 5-1701 and 5-1702 of the Economic Development Article.

Explanation: This is a technical amendment to align the wording of the contingent language in the budget bill with the SB 473 and HB 582 as introduced.

Amendment No. **111**

DIVISION OF TOURISM, FILM AND THE ARTS

T00G00.08 Preservation of Cultural Arts Program

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

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

T00

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

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

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

Amendment No.

112

T00A99
Maryland Economic Development Corporation

Committee Narrative

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

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

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.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Maryland State Certified sod standard enforcement report	MDE	December 1, 2024

LAND AND MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION

U00A06.01 Land and Materials Administration

Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund Annual Report: The committees are concerned that Section 9-275(c) of the Environment Article specifies that an annual status report on the Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund is due on or before November 1 of each year, which was not consistently met before the inclusion of annual budget bill language. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submit the Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund annual status report on November 1, 2024.

U00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund annual report	MDE	November 1, 2024

Budget Amendments

COORDINATING OFFICES

U00A10.01 Coordinating Offices

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in cooperation with the Department of Budget and Management, submits a confirmatory letter to the budget committees indicating that MDE's fiscal 2024 actual personnel expenditures and the fiscal 2025 working appropriation personnel expenditures are budgeted in the correct statewide subobjects. The confirmatory letter shall be submitted with the fiscal 2026 budget submission, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the confirmatory letter to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a confirmatory letter may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the confirmatory letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: MDE incorrectly reflects fringe benefit expenditures – health insurance, pension contributions, and turnover adjustments, among others – almost entirely as Social Security contributions, which makes it difficult to do historical data comparisons. Therefore, funding is restricted until MDE and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submit a confirmatory letter with the fiscal 2026 budget submission, indicating that fiscal 2024 actual personnel expenditures and fiscal 2025 working appropriation personnel expenditures are budgeted in the correct statewide subobjects.

U00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Budgeting of fiscal 2024 actual and fiscal 2025 working appropriation personnel expenditures	MDE DBM	Fiscal 2026 budget submission

Amendment No.

113

Committee Narrative

Enforcement and Inspection Position Strength Assessment: The committees are interested in the enforcement and inspection positions strength of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Therefore, the committees request that MDE and MDA a report on the following:

- an evaluation of the adequacy of Maryland’s current authorized compliance and enforcement positions in the departments. In completing the assessment, the departments shall provide information on the delegation of authority by the federal government to the departments, including any evaluations of this delegated authority, and on the delegation of authority by the departments to other entities; and assess the impact of the role that technology has played on compliance and enforcement responsibilities;
- a comparison of the size, roles, responsibilities, and inspection workload of the departments’ compliance and enforcement positions to neighboring or similar states;
- a list of all inspection activities conducted by the MDE Water and Science Administration, the Land and Materials Administration, the Air and Radiation Administration, and the MDA Office of Resource Conservation;
- the number of regular positions and contractual full-time equivalents associated with the inspections, including the number of vacancies for fiscal 2013 through 2024 actuals, and fiscal 2025 current and fiscal 2026 estimated appropriations; and
- a description of the use of and outcomes from any next generation compliance techniques to increase compliance with Maryland’s environmental regulations.

U00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Enforcement and inspection position strength assessment	MDA MDE	January 1, 2025

Timeline for Environmental Triggers Development and Go-live Date for Environmental Accidents Text Alert System: The committees remain concerned that affected parties are not notified of environmental accidents, such as the release of hazardous materials or illegal discharges from wastewater treatment plants, in a timely manner. In the 2023 Joint Chairmen’s Report, the committees requested that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) conduct a study to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing a text alert system for environmental accidents along the lines of the current weather and AMBER alert systems. The submitted report discussed the need to determine environmental triggers for the text alert system but did not provide a timeline for the development of the triggers or a go-live date for the text alert system. Therefore, the committees request that MDE and MDEM submit a report that establishes a timeline for the development of the environmental triggers and the go-live date for the text alert system. The report is requested to be submitted by October 15, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Timeline for environmental triggers development and go- live date for environmental accidents text alert system	MDE MDEM	October 15, 2024

U10B00
Maryland Environmental Service

Committee Narrative

U10B00.41 General Administration

Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Funding Statement: The committees request that MES continue to provide a report on the following:

- undesignated unrestricted net assets for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 estimated and an explanation for any changes between each of these years, including revenues credited to and expenditures debited from the net assets;
- overhead rate for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 estimated;
- project reserve fund status by beginning balance, approved retainage, funds withdrawn, and interest earned for fiscal 2024 and 2025 for the State Reimbursable Project Contingency Fund, the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) Steam Turbine Contingency Fund, the Department of Natural Resources Project Contingency Fund, the ECI Energy Upgrade Project Reserve Fund, and any other project reserve funds created by MES, including justification for any approved retainage or funds withdrawn in any project reserve fund during fiscal 2024 or 2025; and
- justification for the changes in reimbursable project funding for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 estimated.

The report should be submitted in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) with the fiscal 2026 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MES funding statement	MES DBM	Fiscal 2026 budget submission

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

Amendment No. **114**

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

Amendment No.

115

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.

V00A

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

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	

Amendment No.

116

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

W00A

<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	

Amendment No. **116 cont.**

W00A01.03 Criminal Investigation 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.	-39,000	GF
 Total Change	 -39,000	 0.00

<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	-39,000	
Federal Fund	1,075,000	1,075,000	0	
Total Funds	118,159,958	118,120,958	-39,000	

Amendment No. **116 cont.**

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

W00A

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.

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

Budget Amendments

W00A01.04 Support Services Bureau

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:		
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.	-33,500 GF	
Total Change	-33,500	0.00

W00A

<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	-33,500	
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	-33,500	

Amendment No.

116 cont.

**Y01A
State Reserve Fund**

Budget Amendments

Y01A01.01 Revenue Stabilization Account

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

~~, provided that \$495,497,068 of this appropriation shall be reduced contingent on the enactment of legislation eliminating the required Revenue Stabilization Account appropriation for fiscal 2025.~~

Explanation: This action strikes contingent language that is not needed for the General Assembly to reduce the appropriation directly.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete the appropriation to the Rainy Day Fund. Adequate funding exists to meet Spending Affordability Committee goals without the statutory appropriation in fiscal 2025.	-495,497,068	GF
Total Change	-495,497,068	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	495,497,068	0	-495,497,068	
Total Funds	495,497,068	0	-495,497,068	

Amendment No. 117

Y01A

Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

~~, provided that \$25,000,000 of this appropriation shall be reduced contingent upon the enactment of legislation eliminating the fiscal 2025 payment to the Postretirement Health Benefits Trust Fund.~~

Explanation: This action strikes contingent language that is not needed in order for the General Assembly to reduce the appropriation directly.

Amendment No.

118

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$5,000,000 of this appropriation for the purposes of creating conceptual plans for the reuse or demolition of the State Center Complex may not be expended or transferred for any other purpose until the Department of General Services submits a report to the budget committees detailing how the funds will be utilized and what deliverables are expected to be developed with the use of the funds, a status and timeframe for the transfer of the property to new ownership, collaboration with any other State agencies or Baltimore City, and an assessment of additional State funding that might be required for the transition of the property for alternative use and redevelopment. 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 Dedicated Purpose Account if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The fiscal 2025 budget includes \$5.0 million in the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA) specifically for spending on State Center demolition. Information on plans for the State Center property has been limited, and it is noted that the placement of funds in the DPA provides flexibility in spending and, therefore, uncertainty for the legislature in terms of the timing of activity and new information on demolition plans and transfer of property. This language restricts expenditure of the funds until a report has been submitted providing detail on demolition plans, collaboration with other agencies and Baltimore City, a description and schedule of demolition activity, schedule of expenditure, and plan for transfer of the property.

Information Request	Authors	Due Date
Plan for use of funding for State Center demolition	DGS	45 days before the release of funds

Amendment No.

119

Y01A

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

~~Further provided that \$25,000,000 of this appropriation shall be reduced contingent upon the enactment of legislation reducing the amount of retirement reinvestment contributions.~~

Explanation: This action strikes contingent language that is not necessary for the General Assembly to reduce the appropriation directly.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete the appropriation for the other postemployment benefits sweeper contribution.	-25,000,000	GF
2. Delete the appropriation for the pension sweeper. The fiscal 2025 funding for the pension system meets actuarial requirements.	-25,000,000	GF
 Total Change	 -50,000,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	269,460,000	219,460,000	-50,000,000	
Special Fund	90,000,000	90,000,000	0	
Total Funds	359,460,000	309,460,000	-50,000,000	

Amendment No.

118 cont.

Amend the following language:

~~OPEB Sweeper 25,000,000~~
~~Pension Sweeper 25,000,000~~

Explanation: This action strikes the line-item appropriations for funds that are being reduced by the General Assembly.

Amendment No.

118 cont.

Y01A

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation for the purpose of implementation of Chapter 38 of 2023 (the Climate Solutions Now Act) and the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan is contingent on the enactment of SB 362 or HB 352 authorizing the transfer of funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

Explanation: This action makes the special fund appropriation to the Dedicated Purpose Account contingent on legislation authorizing the transfer of funds. The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 includes a provision authorizing the transfer.

Amendment No.

120

M00Q01
Medical Care Programs Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Fiscal 2024 Deficiency

M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund deficiency appropriation for fiscal 2023 provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements to that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No. **121**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund deficiency appropriation for fiscal 2024 provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements for that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

Amendment No. **122**

N00G00
Local Department Operations
Department of Human Services

Fiscal 2024 Deficiency

N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce a portion of the general fund deficiency appropriation for increased placement costs within the Foster Care Maintenance Payments program. This reduction reduces the size of the proposed fiscal 2024 deficiency appropriation for this program from \$28.4 million to \$21.4 million and would leave a projected general fund surplus of \$5.2 million for the program in the case of increased placements and costs during the remainder of fiscal 2024.	-7,000,000	GF

Total Change	-7,000,000	0.00
--------------	------------	------

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	28,426,097	21,426,097	-7,000,000	
Total Funds	28,426,097	21,426,097	-7,000,000	

Amendment No.

123

**Y01A
State Reserve Fund**

Fiscal 2024 Deficiency

Y01A04.01 Catastrophic Event Account – Catastrophic Event Account

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the deficiency appropriation to the Catastrophic Event Account (CEA) to reflect recent federal budget actions while still maintaining the CEA balance at \$10 million.	-9,418,934 GF	
Total Change	-9,418,934	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	10,000,000	581,066	-9,418,934	
Total Funds	10,000,000	581,066	-9,418,934	

Amendment No.

124

Sections

Budget Amendments

Amend the following section:

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in order to carry out the provisions of these appropriations the Secretary of Budget and Management is authorized:

- (a) To allot all or any portion of the funds herein appropriated to the various departments, boards, commissions, officers, schools and institutions by monthly, quarterly or seasonal periods and by objects of expense ~~and may place any funds appropriated but not allotted in contingency reserve available for subsequent allotment. Upon the Secretary's own initiative or upon the request of the head of any State agency, the Secretary may authorize a change in the amount of funds so allotted.~~

The Secretary shall, before the beginning of the fiscal year, file with the Comptroller of the Treasury ~~a schedule of allotments, if any a list limited to the appropriations restricted in this Act to be placed in contingency reserve.~~ The Comptroller shall not authorize any expenditure or obligation in excess of the allotment made and any expenditure so made shall be illegal.

- ~~(b) To allot all or any portion of funds coming into the hands of any department, board, commission, officer, school and institution of the State, from sources not estimated or calculated upon in the budget.~~

- ~~(e)~~ (b) To fix the number and classes of positions, including temporary and permanent positions, or person years of authorized employment for each agency, unit, or program thereof, not inconsistent with the Public General Laws in regard to classification of positions. The Secretary shall make such determinations before the beginning of the fiscal year and shall base them on the positions or person years of employment authorized in the budget as amended by approved budgetary position actions. No payment for salaries or wages nor any request for or certification of personnel shall be made except in accordance with the Secretary's determinations. At any time during the fiscal year the Secretary may amend the number and classes of positions or person years of employment previously fixed by the Secretary; the Secretary may delegate all or part of this authority. The governing boards of public institutions of higher education shall have the authority to transfer positions between programs and campuses under each institutional board's jurisdiction without the approval of the Secretary, as provided in Section 15-105 of the Education Article.

- ~~(d)~~ (c) To prescribe procedures and forms for carrying out the above provisions.

Sections

Explanation: This language limits the amount of appropriations that can be placed into contingency reserve to only those items restricted by the Maryland General Assembly.

Amendment No. **125**

Amend the following section:

SECTION 17. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds appropriated to the various State agency programs and subprograms in Comptroller Objects 0152 (Health Insurance), 0154 (Retirees Health Insurance Premiums), 0175 (Workers' Compensation), 0217 (Health Insurance), 0305 (DBM Paid Telecommunications), 0839 (HR Shared Services), 0874 (Office of Attorney General Administrative Fee), 0876 (DoIT IT Services Allocation), 0894 (State Personnel System Allocation), 0897 (Enterprise Budget System Allocation), and 1303 (rent paid to DGS) are to be utilized for their intended purposes only. ~~The expenditure or transfer of these funds for other purposes requires the prior approval of the Secretary of Budget and Management.~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Budget and Management may transfer amounts appropriated in Comptroller Objects 0152, 0154, 0217, 0305, and 0876 between State departments and agencies by approved budget amendment in fiscal 2024 and 2025. All funds budgeted in or transferred to Comptroller Objects 0152 and 0154 and any funds restricted in this budget for use in the employee and retiree health insurance program that are unspent shall be credited to the fund as established in accordance with Section 2-516 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.

Further provided that each agency that receives funding in this budget in any of the restricted Comptroller Objects listed within this section shall establish within the State's accounting system a structure of accounts to separately identify for each restricted Comptroller Object, by fund source, the legislative appropriation, monthly transactions, and final expenditures. It is the intent of the General Assembly that an accounting detail be established so that the Office of Legislative Audits may review the disposition of funds appropriated for each restricted Comptroller Object as part of each closeout audit to ensure that funds are used only for the purposes for which they are restricted and that unspent funds are reverted or canceled.

Explanation: This language pertaining to restricted objects of expenditures is amended to disallow transfers to other purposes and makes it possible for the Office of Legislative Audits to track the disposition of funds in restricted statewide subobjects.

Amendment No. **126**

Y01A

Fiscal 2024 Deficiency

Add the following language:

Section 19 Fiscal 2024 Reductions

SECTION 19. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds are reduced immediately upon passage of this budget from the fiscal 2024 appropriation in the following manner:

- (1) \$20,000,000 in general funds is reduced from the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program D25E03.02 Capital Appropriation within the Interagency Commission on School Construction that was made for the purpose of the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund;
- (2) \$4,000,000 in general funds is reduced from the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account in the State Reserve Fund for the purpose of cybersecurity;
- (3) \$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; and
- (4) \$400,000 in general funds is reduced from the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program D40W01.07 Management Planning and Educational Outreach in the Department of Planning for the purpose of a grant to Amtrak to restore a historic train map at the Baltimore Penn Station facility.

Explanation: This section outlines legislative reductions to the fiscal 2024 working appropriation.

Amendment No.

127

Add the following language:

Section 20 Fiscal 2024 Legislative Adds

SECTION 20. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds are added, and shall be available immediately upon passage of this budget, to the fiscal 2024 working appropriation in the following manner:

Sections

- (1) \$20,000,000 in general funds is added to the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program S00A25.07 Rental Housing Programs – Capital Appropriation within the Department of Housing and Community Development;
- (2) \$3,000,000 in general funds is added to the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA) within the State Reserve Fund for the purpose of the Department of Information Technology completing a statewide asset inventory; executive metrics, cybersecurity program outcome-driven metrics, incident response performance metrics, and metric trend measurement; an inventory and assessment of the State’s legacy systems; and a State data inventory. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the DPA;
- (3) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA) within the State Reserve Fund for the purpose of information security officers and other resources to assist the director of local cybersecurity. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the DPA;
- (4) \$400,000 in general funds is added to the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program D40W01.07 Management Planning and Educational Outreach within the Department of Planning for the purpose of funding a grant to Central Baltimore Partnership to restore a historic train map at the Baltimore Penn Station facility. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund; and
- (5) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the fiscal 2024 appropriation for program J00A01.02 Operating Grants-in-Aid within the Maryland Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing a grant for the operations of the Pride of Baltimore II. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This section outlines funds added to the fiscal 2024 working appropriation.

Amendment No.

128

Y01A

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section 21 Fiscal 2025 Legislative Additions

SECTION 21. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds are added to the fiscal 2025 appropriation in the following manner:

- (1) \$110,196,700 in general funds is added for the purpose of funding the following capital projects and programs with pay-as-you-go funds in the following budget codes:
 - (a) \$64,196,700 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A25.07 Rental Housing Programs – Capital Appropriation within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD);
 - (b) \$30,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.02 Neighborhood Revitalization – Capital Appropriation within DHCD for the purpose of the Strategic Demolition Fund; and
 - (c) \$16,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A25.08 Homeownership Programs – Capital Appropriation within DHCD;
- (2) \$21,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program X00A01.01 Redemption and Interest on State Bonds within the Public Debt for the purpose of debt service payments. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (3) \$5,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A25.05 Rental Services Programs – Division of Development Finance within DHCD for the purpose of the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program, contingent on the enactment of SB 370 or HB 428. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be deposited in the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Fund, contingent on legislation establishing the fund;
- (4) \$4,600,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program C00A00.06 Administrative Office of the Courts within the Judiciary for the purpose of providing access to counsel. Further provided that \$1,000,000 of this added appropriation is contingent on the enactment of SB 797 or HB 903 creating the Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Sections

- (5) \$4,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.02 Local Law Enforcement Grants within the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) for the purpose of increasing funding for the Police Accountability grant. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (6) \$3,000,000 in special funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A06.02 Maryland Center for School Safety – Grants within the Maryland Center for School Safety budget for the purpose of funding the School Resource Officer grant program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the Safe Schools Fund;
- (7) \$2,700,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program C00A00.06 Administrative Office of the Courts within the Judiciary for the purpose of providing funding for certain defendants to remain out of jail on monitored home detention while awaiting trial. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (8) \$2,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00A01.01 Executive Direction within the Office of the Secretary within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for the purpose of providing a grant to the Maryland Hospital Association to support a development program for nursing. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (9) \$2,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within Board of Public Works (BPW) for the purpose of providing a grant to the Maryland Association of Boards of Education to establish direct primary care health centers for school system employees, county government employees, and families of these employees in Prince George’s County. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (10) \$2,000,000 in general funds is added within the Comptroller of Maryland:
- (a) \$1,900,000 to the appropriation for program E00A04.01 Revenue Administration within the Revenue Administration Division for the purpose of purchasing tax fraud detection technology; and
- (b) \$100,000 to the appropriation for program E00A05.01 Compliance Administration within the Compliance Division for the purpose of translating materials and educating taxpayers on tax compliance.

Y01A

Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (11) \$1,750,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the purpose of providing a grant to Living Classrooms Foundation, Inc. to support historic ships. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (12) \$1,559,950 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing operating grants under the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (13) \$1,400,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions of Higher Education for R30B21 University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Medicine for the purpose of the Rural Health Equity and Access Longitudinal Elective (R-HEALE) Scholarship Program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (14) \$1,240,000 in special funds from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund is added to the appropriation for program R12A01.01 Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) within AIB for the purpose of providing \$1,100,000 in technical assistance grants to local education agencies and \$140,000 for rent, furniture, and equipment costs associated with office space. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled;
- (15) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization – Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing operating grants under the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (16) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B21 UMB for the purpose of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry to provide funds to support operating costs for a dental emergency clinic. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Sections

- (17) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program P00G01.07 Workforce Development within the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) for the purpose of providing a grant to Dwyer Workforce Development to support healthcare workforce training. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (18) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation to support operating expenses for STEM centers. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (19) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program J00D00.01 Port Operations within the Maryland Port Administration within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the purpose of drone-based security provided by American Robotics. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (20) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00L01.02 Community Services within the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within MDH for the purpose of a grant to Arundel Lodge. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (21) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.01 Maryland School for the Blind within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of staff compensation. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (22) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration (MCPA) within MDH for the purpose of implementing the Assistance in Community Integration Services program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (23) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.02 Neighborhood Revitalization – Capital Appropriation within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of an East Baltimore Neighborhood Development Fund. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not

Y01A

be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (24) \$1,000,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program N00I00.07 Office of Grants Management within the Family Investment Administration (FIA) within DHS for the purposes of providing grants to the Maryland Food Bank and Capital Area Food Bank. Further provided that these funds shall be distributed \$500,000 to the Maryland Food Bank and \$500,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (25) \$900,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to the Baltimore Jewish Council to provide support to various programs. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (26) \$841,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.02 Local Law Enforcement Grants within GOCPP for the purpose of increasing the funding available through the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis grant program. These funds are intended to supplement rather than supplant existing funding from all sources used to support the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis grant program in fiscal 2025. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (27) \$775,800 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R11A11.03 State Library Network within the Maryland State Library Agency for the purpose of providing funding for the State Library Resource Center contingent on the enactment of SB 434 or HB 489. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (28) \$750,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to Northbay. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (29) \$750,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R62I00.26 Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) for the purpose of expanding Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Program to provide loan assistance repayment to school nurses contingent on the enactment of SB 441 or HB 545 expanding the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award within the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program to include certain school nurses. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be

Sections

transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (30) \$750,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D18A01.03 The Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund within the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) for the purpose of continuing critical pandemic recovery work through local management boards, to be allocated among the jurisdictions in the same proportion as other awards to all local management boards are made in fiscal 2025. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (31) \$750,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions of Higher Education for R30B30 University of Maryland Global Campus for the purpose of supporting the Maryland Completion Scholarship program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (32) \$700,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A01.20 Division of Rehabilitative Services – Headquarters within MSDE for the purpose of providing the State’s share of funding required under federal acts for this division contingent on the enactment of SB 859. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (33) \$550,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D40W01.07 Management Planning and Educational Outreach within the Department of Planning for the purpose of a passthrough grant for the Strengthening the Humanities in Nonprofits for Equity program within Maryland Humanities to support small and mid-size nonprofits in strengthening artistic, cultural, and educational opportunities and programming in communities across the State. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (34) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements – MCPA within MDH for the purpose of providing assistance to medical day care services providers. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (35) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program N00I00.06 Office of Home Energy Programs within FIA within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the purpose of providing a grant to the Fuel Fund of Maryland to be used for financial assistance to households facing a utility crisis including residential service disconnection or termination. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by

Y01A

budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (36) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D26A07.03 Community Services within the Maryland Department of Aging for the purpose of a grant to Gilchrist Hospice Care Inc. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (37) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.05 Baltimore City Crime Prevention Initiative within the Administrative Headquarters within GOCPP for the purpose of providing an operating grant to The Choice Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (38) \$500,000 in general funds and 9.0 positions are added to the appropriation for program P00D01.02 Employment Standards within the Division of Labor and Industry within MDL for the purpose of supporting nine new positions for field inspectors. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (39) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program E00A04.01 Revenue Administration within the Revenue Administration Division within the Comptroller of Maryland for the purpose of providing additional grant funding to the Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope Campaign. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (40) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R15P00.04 Content Enterprises within the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission for the purpose of the Center for Maryland History Films. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (41) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D18A01.01 GOC within GOC for the purpose of providing an operating grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (42) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00R01.01 Maryland Health Care Commission within the Health Regulatory Commissions within MDH for the purpose of distributing a grant to the Maryland Patient Safety Center for a public awareness campaign related to healthcare workplace violence. Funds not

Sections

expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (43) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B21 UMB for the purpose of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry to provide preventative, restorative, urgent, and advanced oral health care to children from limited income families that are not eligible for Medicaid. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (44) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program C80B00.02 District Operations within the Office of the Public Defender for the purpose of increasing salaries for existing positions. Funds for this added purpose may be transferred within the agency by budget amendment for the same purpose. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (45) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters within GOCPP for the purpose of awarding a grant to the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault for support of community rape crisis centers. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (46) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters within GOCPP for the purpose of providing an operating grant to Vehicles for Change Inc. contingent on the enactment of SB 181 or HB 488 requiring the agency to award operating grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations for the purpose of providing training in automotive repair to formerly incarcerated individuals. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (47) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters within GOCPP for the purpose of providing grants to domestic violence centers through the Domestic Violence Centers Grant Program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (48) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program L00A15.03 Resource Conservation Operations within the Office of Resource Conservation within the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) for the purpose of supporting soil conservation district technical assistance. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Y01A

- (49) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program T00G00.09 Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) within the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts within the Department of Commerce (Commerce) for the purpose of providing a grant to the BSO to support the Music for Maryland Tour. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (50) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions of Higher Education for R13M00 Morgan State University for the purpose of supporting the Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Systems. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (51) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program Y01A02.01 DPA within the State Reserve Fund for the purpose of providing funds administered by MDL to registered apprenticeship sponsors to reimburse costs paid by the sponsor for related instruction at Maryland community colleges. Further provided that funding may be used to reimburse costs for credit or noncredit courses;
- (52) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00L01.02 Community Services within BHA within MDH for the purpose of a grant to the City of Frederick for mental health services including to expand a crisis services program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (53) \$500,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (54) \$450,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A02.13 Innovative Programs within Aid to Education within MSDE for the purpose of providing funds for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program contingent on the enactment of SB 882 or HB 1139 establishing the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program as a permanent program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (55) \$400,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program T00G00.05 Maryland State Arts Council within the Department of Commerce for the purpose of providing a grant to the Hippodrome Foundation, Inc. Further provided that these added funds shall not be included in the fiscal 2026 calculation of Arts Council formula

Sections

funding. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (56) \$350,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.02 Local Law Enforcement Grants within GOCPP for the purpose of providing a grant to the Maryland Children’s Alliance, Inc. for child advocacy centers. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (57) \$350,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D52A01.01 Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) within MDEM for the purpose of providing grants to support the hiring of additional emergency medical services staff and firefighters and to support a program assisting volunteer firefighters to access community colleges. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (58) \$300,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00F03.04 Family Health and Chronic Disease Services within the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration within MDH for the purpose of administering the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program contingent on the enactment of SB 578 or HB 1472. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (59) \$300,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B36 University System of Maryland Office for the purpose of funding for the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown to support upgrades to the campus information technology infrastructure, the security system, and to upgrade switches to ensure the network supports the security system. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (60) \$300,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program L00A14.10 Nuisance Insects within MDA for the purpose of spraying midges in Back River. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (61) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant to the Prince George’s Gateway Development Authority to develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy in accordance with Chapters 466 and 467 of 2023. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Y01A

- (62) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters within GOCPP for the purpose of establishing an entertainment district security grant for community organizations, nonprofit entities, and local governments to fund security operations during times of high pedestrian traffic in entertainment districts. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (63) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program K00A17.01 Fishing and Boating Services within the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of supporting freshwater mussel revitalization. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (64) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B24 Towson University for the purpose of establishing the Maryland Center for Community Schools. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (65) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program U00A04.01 Water and Science Administration within the Maryland Department of the Environment for the purpose of providing a grant to the City of Hagerstown to fund a long-range water and wastewater infrastructure needs study. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (66) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program P00A01.09 Governor’s Workforce Development Board – Office of the Secretary within MDL for the purpose of conducting a study of bus driver wages in accordance with Chapter 662 of 2022. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (67) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B24 Towson University for the purpose of funding for the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute to enhance the visibility of the program and continue to serve more potential emerging leaders. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (68) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program E00A04.03 Taxpayer Services within the Revenue Administration Division within the Comptroller of Maryland for the purpose of providing funding for the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred

Sections

by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (69) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary within DHCD for the purpose of conducting a study on the potential of commercial community land trusts (CCLT) to preserve small businesses in interested Maryland communities. The study shall include both which types of local markets could be appropriate for CCLTs and what models should be considered. The study shall also develop recommendations on how CCLTs could be supported across the State, delineate desired outcomes, and make recommendations for policy, legislation, or funding needed to launch CCLTs. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (70) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D52A01.01 MDEM within MDEM for the purpose of supporting the Mesonet project. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (71) \$250,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program B75A01.04 Office of Operations and Support Services within the Department of Legislative Services within the Maryland General Assembly for the purpose of hosting a conference for the Council of State Governments. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (72) \$240,050 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.02 Neighborhood Revitalization – Capital Appropriation within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant through the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative to the Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation for the acquisition and redevelopment of properties in Coppin Heights. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (73) \$200,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program L00A12.10 Marketing and Agriculture Development within the Office of Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer Services within MDA for the purpose of providing a grant to the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (74) \$200,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program T00G00.05 Maryland State Arts Council within the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts within Commerce for the purpose of providing a grant to the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company to support the Shakespeare Beyond initiative. Further provided that these added funds

Y01A

shall not be included in the fiscal 2026 calculation of Arts Council formula funding. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (75) \$200,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00L01.02 Community Services within BHA within MDH for the purpose of a grant to the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center to provide urgent mental health care services. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (76) \$200,000 in general funds and 2.0 positions are added to the appropriation for program K00A14.02 Chesapeake and Coastal Service within the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of staffing the State Management Team that administers the Whole Watershed Restoration Partnership contingent on the enactment of HB 1165 or SB 969 establishing the Whole Watershed Restoration Partnership. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (77) \$190,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program T00G00.05 Maryland State Arts Council within the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts within Commerce for the purpose of providing a grant to the BlackRock Center for the Arts. Further provided that these added funds shall not be included in the fiscal 2026 calculation of Arts Council formula funding. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (78) \$175,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D91A01.01 General Administration within the West North Avenue Development Authority for the purpose of providing a grant to the Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation to support its Smart Garments initiative. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (79) \$165,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of providing a grant to Historic Annapolis, Inc. for management of historic properties. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (80) \$161,000 in general funds and 2.0 regular positions are added for the implementation of SB 978, contingent on the enactment of SB 978, establishing new requirements regarding publication of certain material and enforcement of these requirements, to be allocated as follows:

Sections

- (a) \$56,863 and 1.0 regular position to program C82D00.01 General Administration within the Office of the State Prosecutor for the purpose of hiring 1 special investigator to conduct forensic computer investigations necessary to enforce the requirements of SB 978; and
- (b) \$104,137 and 1.0 regular position to program D38I01.01 General Administration within the State Board of Elections (SBE) for the purpose of hiring 1 administrator to implement SBE's authority and responsibilities under SB 978 and for the development of a website portal. Funds not expended for these added purposes may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (81) \$150,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program P00G01.07 Workforce Development within the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within MDL for the purpose of providing a grant to Humanim. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (82) \$150,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D18A01.01 GOC within GOC for the purpose of providing a grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maryland. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (83) \$150,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to the Family League of Baltimore for educational programs. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (84) \$150,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program P00A01.09 Governor's Workforce Development Board within the Office of the Secretary within MDL for the purpose of conducting a study on approaches to advancing skills-based hiring, contingent on the enactment of SB 910. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (85) \$150,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.02 Neighborhood Revitalization – Capital Appropriation within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant through the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative to Jubilee Baltimore, Inc. for a redevelopment project on West Preston Street. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Y01A

- (86) \$125,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to The Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation, Inc. to support the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (87) \$125,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R62I00.05 The Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for the Distribution of Funds to Community Colleges within MHEC for the purpose of funding a facilities study at Hagerstown Community College. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (88) \$112,500 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program L00A14.10 Nuisance Insects within MDA for the purpose of spraying black flies. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (89) \$110,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to the League of Dreams for the purpose of STEM education and water safety programs. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (90) \$103,000 in general funds and 1.0 regular position is added to the appropriation for program M00B01.03 Office of Health Care Quality within the Regulatory Services within MDH for the purpose of hiring an additional health facility surveyor nurse to meet survey requirements to conduct initial full surveys of licensed nursing homes within three months of ownership transfer and to conduct unannounced follow up surveys within 120 days of the initial survey being completed, in accordance with Chapters 159 and 160 of 2021. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (91) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to Junior Achievement of Central Maryland. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (92) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to Robert W. Johnson Community Center, Inc. for the Robert W. Johnson Community

Sections

Center. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (93) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program J00A01.03 Facilities and Capital Equipment within MDOT, The Secretary's Office for the purpose of providing a grant to the Town of Forest Heights for traffic management improvements needed to address heavy traffic generated by the casino at National Harbor. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (94) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00L01.02 Community Services within BHA within MDH for the purpose of a grant to Pro Bono Counseling to support operation of the WARMLine and access to mental health care. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (95) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program K00A17.01 Fishing and Boating Services within the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of providing a grant to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to support Potomac River oyster revitalization. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (96) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A02.13 Innovative Programs within Aid to Education within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to the Yleana Leadership Foundation for the purpose of operating costs associated with standardized test preparation. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (97) \$100,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00A01.01 Executive Direction within the Office of the Secretary within MDH for the purpose of providing a grant to the ALS Association District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia Chapter. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (98) \$85,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant to Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (99) \$75,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program P00G01.07 Workforce Development within the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within MDL for the purpose of providing a grant to Lincoln Technical Institute,

Y01A

Inc. to support a regional technical career fair for high school students. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (100) \$75,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program N00I00.07 Office of Grants Management within FIA within DHS for the purpose of providing a grant to Light House Bistro for workforce development including culinary training. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (101) \$75,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant to the Huntington City Community Development Corporation. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (102) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program M00F03.04 Family Health and Chronic Disease Services within the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration within MDH for the purpose of providing a grant to the Zaching Against Cancer Foundation. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (103) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing an operating grant under the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative to the Mount Pleasant Development Corporation. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (104) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to The Fire Museum of Maryland. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (105) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of a grant to Baltimore Community Rowing expanding staffing capacity to conduct free rowing programs. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (106) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program J00H01.06 Statewide Programs Operations within the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) within MDOT

Sections

for the purpose of a grant for the Maryland Senior Rides Program within Transportation Association of Maryland, which provides transport services for low- and moderate-income seniors throughout the State. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

- (107) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program J00H01.06 Statewide Programs Operations within MTA within MDOT for the purpose of a grant for the Neighbor Ride program, which provides door-to-door transportation services for seniors in Howard County. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (108) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups within BPW for the purpose of providing a grant to the Sandy Spring Civic Association. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (109) \$50,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D05E01.10 Miscellaneous Grants to Private Nonprofit Groups for the purpose of providing a grant to Chesapeake K9 Fund. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (110) \$30,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A03.03 Other Institutions within Funding for Educational Organizations within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to Sultana Education Foundation for operating expenses and general facility maintenance. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (111) \$25,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions for Higher Education for R30B28 University of Baltimore for the purpose of providing funds to the Schaefer Center for Public Policy to staff the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;
- (112) \$25,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A01.04 Division of Early Childhood within Headquarters within MSDE for the purpose of providing a grant to the Cradlerock Children's Center to support operations. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund;

Y01A

- (113) \$20,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization within DHCD for the purpose of providing a grant to ReBUILD Metro, Inc. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund; and
- (114) \$10,000 in general funds is added to the appropriation for program D16A06.01 Office of the Secretary of State within the Secretary of State for the purpose of providing a grant to the Build Haiti Foundation for student exchanges or art exhibitions. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This section outlines legislative additions to the fiscal 2025 allowance.

Amendment No. **129**

Add the following section:

Section 22 Executive Long-term Forecast

SECTION 22. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor’s budget books shall include a forecast of the impact of the executive budget proposal on the long-term fiscal condition of the General Fund, the Transportation Trust Fund, the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund, and higher education Current Unrestricted Fund accounts. This forecast shall estimate aggregate revenues, expenditures, and fund balances in each account for the fiscal year last completed, the current year, the budget year, and four years thereafter. Expenditures shall be reported at such agency, program or unit levels, or categories as may be determined appropriate after consultation with the Department of Legislative Services. A statement of major assumptions underlying the forecast shall also be provided including, but not limited to, general salary increases, inflation, and growth of caseloads in significant program areas.

Explanation: This annual language provides for the delivery of the Executive’s General Fund, transportation, Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund, and higher education forecasts and defines the conditions under which it is to be provided.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Executive forecasts	Department of Budget and Management	With submission of the Governor’s Fiscal 2026 Budget Books

Amendment No. **130**

Sections

Add the following section:

Section 23 Across-the-board Reductions and Higher Education

SECTION 23. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all across-the-board reductions applied to the Executive Branch, unless otherwise stated, shall apply to current unrestricted and general funds in the University System of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Morgan State University, and Baltimore City Community College.

Explanation: This section explicitly applies reductions intended for the full Executive Branch to the University System of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Morgan State University, and Baltimore City Community College unless their exclusion is specifically stated.

Amendment No. **131**

Add the following section:

Section 24 Reporting Federal Funds

SECTION 24. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor's budget books shall include a summary statement of federal revenues by major federal program sources supporting the federal appropriations made therein along with the major assumptions underpinning the federal fund estimates. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall exercise due diligence in reporting this data and ensure that they are updated as appropriate to reflect ongoing congressional action on the federal budget. In addition, DBM shall provide to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) data for the actual, current, and budget years listing the components of each federal fund appropriation by Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number or equivalent detail for programs not in the catalog. Data shall be provided in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of DLS.

Explanation: This annual language provides for consistent reporting of federal monies received by the State.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reporting components of each federal fund appropriation	DBM	With submission of the Governor's Fiscal 2026 Budget Books

Amendment No. **132**

Y01A

Add the following section:

Section 25 Federal Fund Spending

SECTION 25. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in the expenditure of federal funds appropriated in this budget or subsequent to the enactment of this budget by the budget amendment process:

- (1) State agencies shall administer these federal funds in a manner that recognizes that federal funds are taxpayer dollars that require prudent fiscal management, careful application to the purposes for which they are directed, and strict attention to budgetary and accounting procedures established for the administration of all public funds.
- (2) For fiscal 2025, except with respect to capital appropriations, to the extent consistent with federal requirements:
 - (a) when expenditures or encumbrances may be charged to either State or federal fund sources, federal funds shall be charged before State funds are charged except that this policy does not apply to the Department of Human Services with respect to federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to be carried forward into future years;
 - (b) when additional federal funds are sought or otherwise become available in the course of the fiscal year, agencies shall consider, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), whether opportunities exist to use these federal revenues to support existing operations rather than to expand programs or establish new ones; and
 - (c) DBM shall take appropriate actions to effectively establish the provisions of this section as policies of the State with respect to the administration of federal funds by executive agencies.

Explanation: This annual language defines the policies under which federal funds shall be used in the State budget.

Amendment No.

133

Sections

Add the following section:

Section 26 Reporting on Budget Data and Organizational Charts

SECTION 26. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that all State departments, agencies, bureaus, commissions, boards, and other organizational units included in the State budget, including the Judiciary, shall prepare and submit items for the fiscal 2026 budget detailed by Comptroller subobject classification in accordance with instructions promulgated by the Comptroller of Maryland. The presentation of budget data in the Governor's budget books shall include object, fund, and personnel data in the manner provided for in fiscal 2025 except as indicated elsewhere in this Act; however, this may not preclude the placement of additional information into the budget books. For actual fiscal 2024 spending, the fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2026 allowance, the budget detail shall be available from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) automated data system at the subobject level by subobject codes and classifications for all agencies. To the extent possible, except for public higher education institutions, subobject expenditures shall be designated by fund for actual fiscal 2024 spending, the fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2026 allowance. The agencies shall exercise due diligence in reporting this data and ensuring correspondence between reported position and expenditure data for the actual, current, and budget fiscal years. This data shall be made available on request and in a format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). Further, the expenditure of appropriations shall be reported and accounted for by the subobject classification in accordance with the instructions promulgated by the Comptroller of Maryland.

Further provided that due diligence shall be taken to accurately report full-time equivalent (FTE) counts of contractual FTEs in the budget books. For the purpose of this count, contractual FTEs are defined as those individuals having an employee-employer relationship with the State. This count shall include those individuals in higher education institutions who meet this definition but are paid with additional assistance funds.

Further provided that DBM shall provide to DLS with the allowance for each department, unit, agency, office, and institution, a one-page organizational chart in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format that depicts the allocation of personnel across operational and administrative activities of the entity.

Further provided that for each across-the-board reduction to appropriations or positions in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill affecting fiscal 2025 or 2026, DBM shall allocate the reduction for each agency in a level of detail not less than the three-digit R*Stars financial agency code and by each fund type.

Further provided that DBM shall provide to DLS special and federal fund accounting detail for the fiscal year last completed, current year, and budget year for each fund. The account detail, to be submitted with the allowance, should at a minimum provide revenue and expenditure detail, along with starting and ending balances.

Y01A

Further provided that DBM shall provide to DLS by September 1, 2024, a list of subprograms used by each department, unit, agency, office, and institution, along with a brief description of the subprograms' purpose and responsibilities.

Explanation: This annual language provides for consistent reporting of fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 budget data and provides for the submission of department, unit, agency, office, and institutions' organizational charts to DLS with the allowance. It also requires DBM to allocate across-the-board reductions to positions or funding to ensure transparency in budget allocations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Agency organizational charts and special and federal fund accounting detail	DBM	With submission of the Governor's Fiscal 2026 Budget Books
List of subprograms	DBM	September 1, 2024

Amendment No.

134

Add the following section:

Section 27 Interagency Agreements

SECTION 27. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before August 1, 2024, each State agency and each public institution of higher education shall report to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) any agreements in place for any part of fiscal 2024 between State agencies and any public institution of higher education involving potential expenditures in excess of \$100,000 over the term of the agreement. Further provided that DBM shall provide direction and guidance to all State agencies and public institutions of higher education as to the procedures and specific elements of data to be reported with respect to these interagency agreements, to include at a minimum:

- (1) a common code for each interagency agreement that specifically identifies each agreement and the fiscal year in which the agreement began;
- (2) the starting date for each agreement;
- (3) the ending date for each agreement;
- (4) a total potential expenditure, or not-to-exceed dollar amount, for the services to be rendered over the term of the agreement by any public institution of higher education to any State agency;

Sections

- (5) a description of the nature of the goods and services to be provided;
- (6) the total number of personnel, both full- and part-time, associated with the agreement;
- (7) contact information for the agency and the public institution of higher education for the person(s) having direct oversight or knowledge of the agreement;
- (8) total indirect cost recovery or facilities and administrative (F&A) expenditures authorized for the agreement;
- (9) the indirect cost recovery or F&A rate for the agreement and brief description of how the rate was determined;
- (10) actual expenditures for the most recently closed fiscal year;
- (11) actual base expenditures that the indirect cost recovery or F&A rate may be applied against during the most recently closed fiscal year;
- (12) actual expenditures for indirect cost recovery or F&A for the most recently closed fiscal year; and
- (13) total authorized expenditures for any subaward(s) or subcontract(s) being used as part of the agreement and a brief description of the type of award or contract.

Further provided that DBM shall submit a consolidated report to the budget committees and the Department of Legislative Services by December 1, 2024, that contains information on all agreements between State agencies and any public institution of higher education involving potential expenditures in excess of \$100,000 that were in effect at any time during fiscal 2024.

Further provided that no new higher education interagency agreement with State agencies with a projected value in excess of \$500,000 may be entered into during fiscal 2025 without prior approval of the Secretary of Budget and Management.

Explanation: This annual language requires DBM to report on all interagency agreements between State agencies and public institutions of higher education having a total potential expenditure over the term of the agreement in excess of \$100,000. This applies only to agreements for the purchase of goods and/or services and does not apply to grants or space agreements. Further, it requires that no new higher education interagency agreement with State agencies with a projected value in excess of \$500,000 be entered into during fiscal 2025 without prior approval of the Secretary of Budget and Management.

Y01A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Consolidated report on interagency agreements	DBM	December 1, 2024

Amendment No.

135

Add the following section:

Section 28 Budget Amendments

SECTION 28. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any budget amendment to increase the total amount of special, federal, or higher education (current restricted and current unrestricted) fund appropriations, or to make reimbursable fund transfers from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy or the Maryland Department of Emergency Management made in Section 1 of this Act shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) This section may not apply to budget amendments for the sole purpose of:
 - (a) appropriating funds available as a result of the award of federal disaster assistance; and
 - (b) transferring funds from the State Reserve Fund – Economic Development Opportunities Account for projects approved by the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).
- (2) Budget amendments increasing total appropriations in any fund account by \$100,000 or more may not be approved by the Governor until:
 - (a) that amendment has been submitted to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS); and
 - (b) the budget committees or LPC has considered the amendment or 45 days have elapsed from the date of submission of the amendment. Each amendment submitted to DLS shall include a statement of the amount, sources of funds and purposes of the amendment, and a summary of the impact on regular position or contractual full-time equivalent payroll requirements.
- (3) Unless permitted by the budget bill or the accompanying supporting documentation or by any other authorizing legislation, and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3-216 of the Transportation Article, a budget amendment may not:

Sections

- (a) restore funds for items or purposes specifically denied by the General Assembly;
 - (b) fund a capital project not authorized by the General Assembly provided, however, that subject to provisions of the Transportation Article, projects of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) shall be restricted as provided in Section 1 of this Act;
 - (c) increase the scope of a capital project by an amount 7.5% or more over the approved estimate or 5.0% or more over the net square footage of the approved project until the amendment has been submitted to DLS, and the budget committees have considered and offered comment to the Governor, or 45 days have elapsed from the date of submission of the amendment. This provision does not apply to MDOT; and
 - (d) provide for the additional appropriation of special, federal, or higher education funds of more than \$100,000 for the reclassification of a position or positions.
- (4) A budget may not be amended to increase a federal fund appropriation by \$100,000 or more unless documentation evidencing the increase in funds is provided with the amendment and fund availability is certified by the Secretary of Budget and Management.
- (5) No expenditure or contractual obligation of funds authorized by a proposed budget amendment may be made prior to approval of that amendment by the Governor.
- (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any federal, special, or higher education fund appropriation may be increased by budget amendment upon a declaration by the Board of Public Works that the amendment is essential to maintaining public safety, health, or welfare, including protecting the environment or the economic welfare of the State.
- (7) Budget amendments for new major information technology projects, as defined by Sections 3A-301 and 3A-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, must include an Information Technology Project Request, as defined in Section 3A 308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.
- (8) Further provided that the fiscal 2025 appropriation detail as shown in the Governor's budget books submitted to the General Assembly in January 2025 and the supporting electronic detail may not include appropriations for budget amendments that have not been signed by the Governor, exclusive of the MDOT pay-as-you-go capital program.
- (9) Further provided that it is the policy of the State to recognize and appropriate additional special, higher education, and federal revenues in the budget bill as approved by the General Assembly. Further provided that for the fiscal 2026 allowance, the Department

Y01A

of Budget and Management shall continue policies and procedures to minimize reliance on budget amendments for appropriations that could be included in a deficiency appropriation.

Explanation: This annual language defines the process under which budget amendments may be used.

Amendment No. **136**

Add the following section:

Section 29 Maintenance of Accounting Systems

SECTION 29. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- (1) The Secretary of Health shall maintain the accounting systems necessary to determine the extent to which funds appropriated for fiscal 2024 in program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements and M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements have been disbursed for services provided in that fiscal year and shall prepare and submit the monthly reports by fund type required under this section for that program.
- (2) The State Superintendent of Schools shall maintain the accounting systems necessary to determine the extent to which funds appropriated for fiscal 2024 to program R00A02.07 Students With Disabilities for nonpublic placements have been disbursed for services provided in that fiscal year and to prepare monthly reports as required under this section for that program.
- (3) The Secretary of Human Services shall maintain the accounting systems necessary to determine the extent to which funds appropriated for fiscal 2024 in program N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments have been disbursed for services provided in that fiscal year, including detail by placement type for the average monthly caseload, average monthly cost per case, and the total expended for each foster care program, and to prepare the monthly reports required under this section for that program.
- (4) For the programs specified, reports must indicate by fund type total appropriations for fiscal 2024 and total disbursements for services provided during that fiscal year up through the last day of the second month preceding the date on which the report is to be submitted and a comparison to data applicable to those periods in the preceding fiscal year.

Sections

- (5) Reports shall be submitted to the budget committees, the Department of Legislative Services, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Comptroller beginning August 15, 2024, and submitted on a monthly basis thereafter.
- (6) It is the intent of the General Assembly that general funds appropriated for fiscal 2024 to the programs specified that have not been disbursed within a reasonable period, not to exceed 12 months from the end of the fiscal year, shall revert.

Explanation: This annual language requires the maintenance of accounting systems for certain programs, states the intent of the General Assembly that general funds not disbursed be reverted, and requires reporting of disbursements by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on appropriations and disbursements in M00Q01.03, M00Q01.10, R00A02.07, and N00G00.01	MDH MSDE DHS	August 15, 2024, and monthly thereafter

Amendment No. **137**

Add the following section:

Section 30 Competitive Grant Applications

SECTION 30. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, as federal legislation makes billions of dollars of grant funding available to states and other entities on a competitive basis, it is the intent of the General Assembly that State agencies aggressively pursue funding opportunities that align with the goals of the State. The General Assembly notes that many of the grant opportunities require the commitment of State matching funds and asks that agencies notify the budget committees at least 10 days prior to submitting the application if the receipt of the grant will require the allocation of additional State resources to the agency in fiscal 2025 or future years. The submission should include a brief description of the opportunity, the amount of federal funds the State is seeking, and the required State match.

Further provided that on a quarterly basis beginning July 1, 2024, the committees request a report from the Department of Budget and Management summarizing all of the competitive grants the State has applied for, the date of application, the status of the application, and any State match that is required by the grant.

Y01A

Explanation: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act each make billions of dollars of federal grant funds available to states and other entities on a competitive basis. There is limited legislative oversight on these funding opportunities and the impact they may have on future commitment of State resources. This language establishes a process for legislative review and tracking of competitive grant opportunities prior to the commitment of State funds.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Notice of competitive grant application requiring State match	Department of Budget and Management All State Agencies	10 days prior to submission of grant application
Competitive grant application summary reports	Department of Budget and Management	July 1, 2024 October 1, 2024 January 1, 2025 April 1, 2025

Amendment No.

138

Add the following section:

Section 31 Revenue Stabilization Account – Entitlement Shortfalls

SECTION 31. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor is authorized to process:

- (1) a fiscal 2024 budget amendment transferring up to \$65,000,000 and a fiscal 2025 budget amendment transferring up to \$100,000,000 from the Y01A01.01 Revenue Stabilization Account fund balance to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Medical Care Programs Administration, budget code M00Q01.03, to address underfunding that materializes in that program; and
- (2) a fiscal 2025 budget amendment transferring up to \$34,000,000 from the Y01A01.01 Revenue Stabilization Account fund balance to the Department of Human Services Foster Care Maintenance Program, budget code N00G00.01, to address underfunding that materializes in that program.

Each transfer enumerated above is contingent on the Department of Budget and Management submitting a report to the budget committees that provides updated estimates of projected shortfalls for the entitlement program. Each report shall be submitted 30 days prior to the submission of the budget amendment.

Sections

Explanation: Individual Department of Legislative Services analyses for Medicaid, foster care, and debt service projected shortfalls in these three programs of a collective \$290 million for fiscal 2024 and 2025. A projected funding surplus in the Behavioral Health Administration of about \$46 million reduces that potential shortfall to \$244 million. A future supplemental budget will likely address the debt service shortfall. This action authorizes the transfer of \$65 million in fiscal 2024 and \$100 million in fiscal 2025 from the Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) to the MDH Medical Care Programs Administration to address underfunding that materializes and \$34 million in fiscal 2025 from the Rainy Day Fund to the Foster Care Maintenance Program to address underfunding that materializes. If the maximum transfers are made, this action would reduce the balance in the Rainy Day Fund to \$2.1 billion or about 8.6% of general fund revenues.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Entitlement shortfalls	Department of Budget and Management	30 days prior to submission of budget amendment

Amendment No.

139

Add the following section:

Section 32 Positions Abolished in the Budget

SECTION 32. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That no position identification number assigned to a position abolished in this budget may be reassigned to a job or function different from that to which it was assigned when the budget was submitted to the General Assembly. Incumbents in positions abolished may continue State employment in another position.

Explanation: This language prevents employees from being moved into positions abolished in the budget. It also allows that incumbents in abolished positions may continue State employment in another position.

Amendment No.

140

Add the following section:

Section 33 Injured Workers' Insurance Fund Accounts

SECTION 33. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Accounting Division of the Comptroller of Maryland shall establish a subsidiary ledger control account to debit all State agency funds budgeted under subobject 0175 (Workers' Compensation) and to credit all

Y01A

payments disbursed to the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund (IWIF) via transmittal. The control account shall also record all funds withdrawn from IWIF and returned to the State and subsequently transferred to the General Fund. IWIF shall submit monthly reports to the Department of Legislative Services concerning the status of the account.

Explanation: This section provides continuation of a system to track workers' compensation payments to IWIF for payments of claims, current expenses, and funded liability for incurred losses by the State.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the status of ledger control account	IWIF	Monthly beginning July 1, 2024

Amendment No. **141**

Add the following section:

Section 34 The "Rule of 100"

SECTION 34. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of Public Works (BPW), in exercising its authority to create additional positions pursuant to Section 7-236 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, may authorize during the fiscal year no more than 100 positions in excess of the total number of authorized State positions on July 1, 2024, as determined by the Secretary of Budget and Management. Provided, however, that if the imposition of this ceiling causes undue hardship in any department, agency, board, or commission, additional positions may be created for that affected unit to the extent that an equal number of positions authorized by the General Assembly for the fiscal year are abolished in that unit or in other units of State government. It is further provided that the limit of 100 does not apply to any position that may be created in conformance with specific manpower statutes that may be enacted by the State or federal government nor to any positions created to implement block grant actions or to implement a program reflecting fundamental changes in federal/State relationships. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, BPW may authorize additional positions to meet public emergencies resulting from an act of God and violent acts of man that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Maryland. BPW may authorize the creation of additional positions within the Executive Branch provided that 1.25 contractual full-time equivalents (FTE) are abolished for each regular position authorized and that there be no increase in agency funds in the current budget and the next two subsequent budgets as the result of this action. It is the intent of the General Assembly that priority is given to converting individuals that have been in contractual FTEs for at least two years. Any position created by this method may not be counted within the limitation of 100 under this section. The numerical limitation on the creation of positions by BPW established in this section may not apply to positions entirely supported by funds from federal or other non-State sources so long as

Sections

both the appointing authority for the position and the Secretary of Budget and Management certify for each position created under this exception that:

- (1) funds are available from non-State sources for each position established under this exception; and
- (2) any positions created will be abolished in the event that non-State funds are no longer available. The Secretary of Budget and Management shall certify and report to the General Assembly by June 30, 2025, the status of positions created with non-State funding sources during fiscal 2022 through 2025 under this provision as remaining, authorized, or abolished due to the discontinuation of funds.

Explanation: This annual language, the Rule of 100, limits the number of positions that may be added after the beginning of the fiscal year to 100 and provides exceptions to the limit.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Certification of the status of positions created with non-State funding sources during fiscal 2022 through 2025	DBM	June 30, 2025

Amendment No. **142**

Add the following section:

Section 35 Annual Report on Authorized Positions

SECTION 35. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That immediately following the close of fiscal 2024, the Secretary of Budget and Management shall determine the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions that are authorized as of the last day of fiscal 2024 and on the first day of fiscal 2025. Authorized positions shall include all positions authorized by the General Assembly in the personnel detail of the budgets for fiscal 2024 and 2025, including nonbudgetary programs, the Maryland Transportation Authority, the University System of Maryland self-supported activities, and Maryland Correctional Enterprises. The Department of Budget and Management shall also prepare a report during fiscal 2025 for the budget committees upon creation of regular FTE positions through Board of Public Works action and upon transfer or abolition of positions. It shall note, at the program level:

- (1) where regular FTE positions have been abolished;
- (2) where regular FTE positions have been created;

Y01A

- (3) from where and to where regular FTE positions have been transferred; and
- (4) where any other adjustments have been made. Provision of contractual FTE information in the same fashion as reported in the appendices of the Governor's Fiscal 2025 Budget Books shall also be provided.

Further provided that this report shall also be submitted as an appendix with the Governor's Fiscal 2026 Budget Books, and that the report shall provide information that is consistent with information in the individual agency pages of the Budget Books and with data provided to the Department of Legislative Services.

Explanation: This annual language provides reporting requirements for regular positions and contractual FTEs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Total number of FTEs on June 30, 2024, and July 1, 2024	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)	July 14, 2024
Report on the creation, transfer, or abolition of regular positions	DBM	With the Governor's fiscal 2026 budget submission and as needed

Amendment No. **143**

Add the following section:

Section 36 Annual Report on Health Insurance Receipts and Spending

SECTION 36. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Budget and Management shall include as an appendix in the Governor's Fiscal 2026 Budget Books an accounting of the fiscal 2024 actual, fiscal 2025 working appropriation, and fiscal 2026 estimated revenues and expenditures associated with the employees' and retirees' health plan. The data in this report should be consistent with the budget data submitted to the Department of Legislative Services. This accounting shall include:

- (1) any health plan receipts received from State agencies, as well as prescription rebates or recoveries, or audit recoveries, and other miscellaneous recoveries;
- (2) any health plan receipts received from employees and retirees, broken out by active employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees;

Sections

- (3) any premium, capitated, or claims expenditures paid on behalf of State employees and retirees for any health, mental health, dental, or prescription plan, as well as any administrative costs not covered by these plans, with health, mental health, and prescription drug expenditures broken out by medical payments for active employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees, and prescription drug expenditures broken out by active employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees, and Medicare-eligible retirees; and
- (4) any balance remaining and held in reserve for future provider payments.

Explanation: This language provides an accounting of the health plan revenues received and expenditures made on behalf of State employees and retirees. The language proposes that the language in the report be consistent with the budget data submitted with the budget bill.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Accounting of the employee and retiree health plan revenues and expenditures	Department of Budget and Management	With the submission of the Governor's Fiscal 2026 Budget Books

Amendment No. **144**

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section 37 Out-of-home Placements

SECTION 37. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Human Services Social Services Administration, \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Juvenile Services, \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration, and \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Maryland State Department of Education may not be expended until the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) submits a report on behalf of the Children's Cabinet to the budget committees on out-of-home placements containing:

- (1) the total number and one-day counts (as of January 1) of out-of-home placements and entries by jurisdiction, by agency, and by placement type for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024;

Y01A

- (2) the total number and one-day counts (as of January 1) of out-of-state placements, including the number of family home, community-based, and noncommunity-based out-of-state placements for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024 categorized by state and by age category;
- (3) the costs associated with out-of-home placements;
- (4) an explanation of recent placement trends;
- (5) findings of child abuse and neglect occurring while families are receiving family preservation services or within one year of each case closure; and
- (6) areas of concern related to trends in out-of-home and/or out-of-state placements and potential corrective actions that the Children’s Cabinet and local management boards can take to address these concerns.

Further provided that each agency or administration that funds or places children and youth in out-of-home placements shall assist GOC and comply with any data requests necessary for the timely production of the report. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by January 1, 2025, and 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 for any other purpose. Should the report not be submitted by the requested date, the restricted funds shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: The out-of-home placements report is a report mandated by Section 8-703(e) of the Human Services Article. It is also annually requested to be submitted to the budget committees. This report is a useful evaluative tool to assess the well-being of Maryland’s youth and families and to identify areas of concern related to youth placed out-of-home. This language restricts funds in each of the data reporting agencies and specifies the data of interest to the General Assembly, including agency-specific data for out-of-home and out-of-state placements.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Out-of-home placements report	GOC Department of Human Services Department of Juvenile Services Maryland Department of Health Maryland State Department of Education	January 1, 2025

Amendment No.

145

Sections

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

Amendment No. **146**

Tecchnical Corrections

Budget Amendments

Sections

Amend the following language:

SECTION ~~19~~39

Explanation: Technical amendment to renumber sections.

Amend the following language:

SECTION ~~20~~40

Explanation: Technical amendment to renumber sections.

Amendment No.

147