

# **Decision Document**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
2024 Session**



**D11A0401**  
**Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 2.0 new positions from 0% to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-\$ 39,121	GF		Disagree. ODHH indicates that recruitment efforts will begin immediately upon passage of the budget bill. The additional staffing will support efforts to manage the applications and licensing once the portal is available.		
2. Adopt the following narrative:				Concur.		
<p><b>Update on State Board of Sign Language Interpreters:</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a list of appointed board members;</li> <li>● progress toward establishing State sign language licensing requirements and projected timeline for publishing the requirements;</li> <li>● progress toward establishing a Maryland registry and public database of sign language interpreters;</li> <li>● strategies undertaken or planned to support interpreters through the licensing process and reach unlicensed interpreters;</li> <li>● year-to-date and projected fiscal 2025 revenue in the Sign Language Interpreters Fund;</li> </ul>						

**D11A0401**  
**Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• methods employed to set the fee schedule and rates, collect fees, and provide financial assistance with fees;</li> <li>• methods employed to receive and process complaints of interpreter fraud;</li> <li>• key performance indicators or metrics that will be used to assess the success and impact of the licensing program; and</li> <li>• community engagement activities held in fiscal 2024 and 2025 regarding sign language interpretation services and licensure in the State.</li> </ul>						

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

**D12A02**  
**Department of Disabilities**

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

Concur.

**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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on USTF expenditures	MDOD	September 15, 2024

**D15A05**

**Executive Department – Boards, Commissions and Offices**

**Amount**      **Position**      **Agency Response Hearing Notes**      **Senate**      **House**  
**Change**      **Change**           **Decisions**      **Decisions**

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

**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.

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

**D16A06**  
**Secretary of State**

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

Concur.

**D26A07**  
**Department of Aging**

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

Concur.

**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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Participation and funding needs	MDOA	December 1, 2024

**D26A07**  
**Department of Aging**

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

Concur.

**Update on the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Initiative:** Established by executive order in January 2024, 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 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Update on the LRM Initiative	MDOA	December 15, 2024

**D27L00**  
**Maryland Commission on Civil Rights**

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

No response.

**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.

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

**D50H01**  
**Military Department**

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

Concur.

**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.

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

**D53T00**

**Maryland Institute Emergency Medical Services Systems**

**Amount  
Change**

**Position  
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing Notes**

**Senate  
Decisions**

**House  
Decisions**

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur.

**D60A10**  
**State Archives**

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

Concur.

**D78Y01**  
**Maryland Health Benefit Exchange**

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

Concur.

**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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Reinsurance program costs and forecast	MHBE	September 30, 2024

**D91**  
**West North Avenue Development Authority**

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

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

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

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

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

**D91**  
**West North Avenue Development Authority**

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

**E50C**  
**State Department of Assessments and Taxation**

**Amount**  
**Change**

**Position**  
**Change**

**Agency Response Hearing Notes**

**Senate**  
**Decisions**

**House**  
**Decisions**

1. 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.

Concur in part. The agency requests removal of the requirement that the agency research and report on 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

**E50C**  
**State Department of Assessments and Taxation**

Amount  
Change

Position  
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate  
Decisions

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Decisions

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.

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

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

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;

**E50C**  
**State Department of Assessments and Taxation**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(4)	<u>a discussion of how any vacancies among staff for the project have affected project progression; and</u>				
(5)	<u>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.</u>				

The first report shall be submitted by July 15, 2024, and the second report shall be submitted by December 15, 2024. The funds may be released in \$25,000 increments following the submission of each report. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of each report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the reports are not submitted to the budget committees.

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

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

**E80E**  
**Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board**

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

Concur.

**M00A01**  
**MDH – Administration**

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

Disagree. MDH said that it anticipated submitting this report mid-February 2024.

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 staffing vacancies throughout MDH. The report shall address barriers to attracting and maintaining staff and include data as of the close of fiscal 2023 and 2024 on the following:

- (1) a comparison of compensation at MDH and other comparable administrative positions at the federal and local levels;
- (2) a comparison of compensation of direct care staff to other private and nonprofit health care settings;
- (3) an evaluation of the impact of fiscal 2023 annual salary review adjustments and any other compensation benefits or incentives offered by MDH;
- (4) discussion of recruitment and retention strategies for the MDH workforce;
- (5) the potential long-term impacts of the Facilities Master Plan on MDH staffing alignment; and
- (6) 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

**M00A01**  
**MDH – Administration**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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employees. As of January 25, 2024, neither report had been submitted. 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 committees are concerned about MDH’s ability to continue decreasing its vacancy rate while adding hundreds of new positions across the department in fiscal 2025. This language restricts funds pending a report on barriers to recruitment and retention throughout MDH, including salary comparisons to other similar positions elsewhere in government or in different private or nonprofit care settings.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
MDH staffing and salary study	MDH	August 15, 2024

2. Adopt the following 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 provide 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. The 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;

Concur in part. MDH requests that this information be included in the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access annual report rather than a separate report.

**M00A01**  
**MDH – Administration**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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- 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on overdose response efforts	MDH	October 1, 2024

**M00B0103**  
**MDH – Office of Health Care Quality**

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

Concur.

**M00B0104**  
**MDH – Health Professional Boards and Commissions**

Amount  
Change

Position  
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate  
Decisions

House  
Decisions

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

No response.

, 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

2. Strike the following language:

Disagree. Considering MDH's statutory responsibility for this funding, and for the Board's infrastructure operations, the General Funds were kept in the

~~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.~~

## M00B0104

### MDH – Health Professional Boards and Commissions

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
		<p><b>Explanation:</b> Chapters 222 and 223 of 2023 temporarily repeal the Maryland Board of Nursing’s authority to employ staff and an executive director and define duties of its staff. Instead, authority of the board’s infrastructure and oversight operations are assigned to the Secretary of Health. This action strikes language allowing the Board of Nursing to receive reimbursement from the Maryland Department of Health for services related to infrastructure operations for the board.</p>		
		<p>MDH Office of the Secretary budget rather than realigned to the Board. Because most infrastructure items are existing rather than new, and will be ongoing, MDH budgeted these items as reimbursable funds, to fully and transparently represent these items on the Board’s side.</p>		

**M00F**  
**MDH – Public Health Administration**

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

Concur in part. MDH concurs with the report but disagrees with the funding restriction.

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of executive direction may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management submit a report to the budget committees on the Core Public Health Services funding formula and how it is applied across the 24 local health departments (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; and
- (5) any recommendations to change the formula.

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:** Section 2-302 of the Health – General Article mandates formula funding for Core Public Health Services (funding for LHD) with an annual

**M00F**  
**MDH – Public Health Administration**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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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. 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.

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

**M00F03**

**MDH – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:  <u>, provided that \$2,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon passage of legislation establishing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.</u>  <b>Explanation:</b> 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 \$2,000,000.				Disagree.		
2. 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.	-\$ 8,000,000	GF		Disagree.		
3. Reduce general funds for the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund to maintain the current level of funding based on reported underspending in fiscal 2024.	-\$ 1,000,000	GF		Disagree.		
4. Adopt the following narrative:  <b>Performance Measures Related to Public Health Effects of Adult-use Cannabis:</b> Chapter 26 of 2022 (Cannabis Reform) established the Cannabis Public Health Fund within the Maryland Department of Health 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 include goals, objectives, and performance				Disagree. The department needs at least one year of data from July 1, 2023, as a baseline and will review Managing for Results data in fall 2024.		

**M00F03**

**MDH – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration**

**Amount  
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**Position  
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**Agency Response Hearing Notes**

**Senate  
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measures and outcomes related to public health effects of adult-use cannabis legalization. Performance measures should include, but not be limited to, the prevalence of cannabis use among Maryland adults and youth shown separately.

**Information Request**

**Author**

**Due Date**

Performance goals and measures related to public health effects of adult-use cannabis legalization

PHPA

With the submission of the fiscal 2026 allowance and annually thereafter

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

Amount  
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Position  
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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

Disagree. The Department anticipates the submission of this report by early March.

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 on the recoupment and forgiveness of overpayments to providers. The 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; and
- (4) a brief explanation of the rationale behind forgiving providers, if provided.

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 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 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. This language

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

Amount  
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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restricts funds until MDH submits a report by August 1, 2024, that provides an update on the overpayments and progress toward completing recoupment.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on provider overpayment recoupment and forgiveness	MDH	August 1, 2024

2. 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 should include data through September 1 for the first report, December 31 for the second report, and March 31 for the third report. The data should be provided for fiscal 2024 and the same period for the two prior fiscal years. The first report should 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 purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Disagree. The Department currently staffs 55 Commissions and Work Groups with required reports to the Legislature in addition to Joint Chairmen’s reports, and other statutorily mandated reporting requirements. In lieu of a mandated report, the Department requests sharing data with DLS and meeting quarterly to discuss the data.

**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.

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on non-Medicaid provider reimbursements	Maryland Department of Health	September 30, 2024 January 20, 2025 April 20, 2025

3. Amend the following language to the general fund appropriation: Concur.

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.

4. Add the following language: Concur in part. MDH agrees with the action but expressed interest in expanding the allowable transfers to include additional MDH programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program and M00M01.02 DDA Community Services.
- 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.

**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.

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
5.	Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:		Concur.		
	<p><u>, 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.</u></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> 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.</p>				
6.	Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:		Concur in part. MDH agrees with the action but expressed interest in expanding the allowable transfers to include additional MDH programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program and M00M01.02 DDA Community Services.		
	<p><u>, 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.</u></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> 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.</p>				

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
7.						
<p>Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>, 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.</u></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> 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.</p>			<p>Concur in part. MDH agrees with the action but expressed interest in expanding the allowable transfers to include additional MDH programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program and M00M01.02 DDA Community Services.</p>			
8.						
<p>Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>, 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.</u></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> 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.</p>			<p>Concur in part. MDH agrees with the action but expressed interest in expanding the allowable transfers to include additional MDH programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program and M00M01.02 DDA Community Services.</p>			
9.						
<p>Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>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</u></p>			<p>Concur in part. MDH agrees with the action but expressed interest in expanding the allowable transfers to include additional MDH programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program and</p>			

**M00L**  
**MDH – Behavioral Health Administration**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
		M00M01.02	DDA	Community Services.	
<u>Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.</u>					

**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.

**M00M**  
**MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration**

**Amount  
Change**

**Position  
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing Notes**

**Senate  
Decisions**

**House  
Decisions**

1. 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 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.

Concur in part. MDH concurs with the submission of the report, but respectfully requests that no funds be restricted.

**M00M**  
**MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	
Report on upfront lump sum payments and plan to recoup advance payments	MDH	October 1, 2024	

2. 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 transition to the LTSS system and spending forecasts following the transition

Concur in part. MDH concurs with the submission of the report, but respectfully requests that no funds be restricted.

**M00M**  
**MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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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.

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

3. Add the following language: No response.

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.

**M00Q01**  
**MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration**

**Amount  
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**Position  
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**Agency Response Hearing Notes**

**Senate  
Decisions**

**House  
Decisions**

1. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: No response.

, 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 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	MCPA	45 days before the release of funds

4. Add the following language: No response.

Provided that all appropriations provided for program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated.

**M00Q01**  
**MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration**

Amount  
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Position  
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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Decisions

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.

**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.

5. Adopt the following narrative:

No response.

**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;

**M00Q01**  
**MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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;</li> <li>● the number of individuals on the Community Options waiver registry as of June 30, 2024;</li> <li>● 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</li> <li>● details regarding the timing and amount of funds transferred from the Dedicated Purpose Account for End the Wait initiatives and to improve provider capacity.</li> </ul>					

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

6. Adopt the following narrative: No response.

**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:

**M00Q01**  
**MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration**

Amount  
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Position  
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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- 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.

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

**M00Q01**  
**MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
7. 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 -\$ 213,365	GF FF		No response.		
8. Add the following language:				No response.		

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.

**M00R01**  
**MDH – Health Regulatory Commissions**

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

Disagree. MDH is already conducting an independent evaluation of the Maryland Primary Care Program.

**Evaluation of the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) and Update on Outcome Based Credits:** Given the role of the MDPCP in transforming care in the State under the Total Cost of Care (TCOC) model, the committees request that the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), in consultation with the MDPCP Project Management Office within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), provide information on the effectiveness of the program. In particular, this evaluation should focus on 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 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. 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

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur.

**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

**M00R01**  
**MDH – Health Regulatory Commissions**

Amount  
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Position  
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on consortium grants	MCHRC	November 1, 2024

**N00A01**  
**DHS – Administration**

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

Concur.

**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.

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

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

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

, 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 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.

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

2. 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;

Disagree. DHS disagrees with the restriction of funds, and also proposes edits to the categories of data included in the language requesting the report.

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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(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.

The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days 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.

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on caseload data and filled positions assigned by jurisdiction for specified caseload types	DHS	November 1, 2024

3. Adopt the following narrative: Concur.

**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
- 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.

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on hospital stays, ALOS, and placement after discharge	DHS	December 1, 2024

4. Adopt the following narrative: Concur.

**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;

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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- 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.

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

5. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Disagree.

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).

6. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Disagree.

Further provided that \$40,393,089 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

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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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 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 requires DHS to submit 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 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.

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

7. Add the following language to the general fund appropriation: Disagree.

, 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

**N00B**  
**DHS – Social Services**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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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.

- |    |   |               |    |           |
|----|---|---------------|----|-----------|
| 8. | 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 | Disagree. |
|----|---|---------------|----|-----------|

**N00H00**  
**DHS – Child Support Administration**

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

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.

Disagree. DHS indicates that this is contrary to the federal purpose and intent for the use of incentive funds.

**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.

2. Adopt the following 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.

Concur.

**N00H00**  
**DHS – Child Support Administration**

<u><b>Amount Change</b></u>	<u><b>Position Change</b></u>	<u><b>Agency Response Hearing Notes</b></u>	<u><b>Senate Decisions</b></u>	<u><b>House Decisions</b></u>
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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:

- 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.

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

**N00I00**  
**DHS – Family Investment**

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

, 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 N00G00.02 Local Family Investment Program for the purpose of transferring administrative spending for the Summer Electronic Benefits 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 Local Family Investment Program for 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.

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

Further provided that \$9,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to program N00G00.02 Local Family Investment Program 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.

**N00I00**  
**DHS – Family Investment**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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**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 Local Family Investment Program to be used for the same purpose.

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|----|---|---------------|----|--|-----------|
| 3. | 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 |  | Disagree. |
| 4. | 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 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. | -\$ 1,555,692 | SF |  | Disagree. |
| 5. | Add the following language to the federal fund appropriation:   |               |    |  | Disagree. |

, provided that \$9,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget

**N00I00**  
**DHS – Family Investment**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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amendment to program N00G00.02 – Local Family Investment Program 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 Local Family Investment Program to be used for the same purpose.

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|----|--|-----------------|----|---------|--|
| 6. | <p>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.</p> | -\$ 200,000,000 | FF | Concur. |  |
| 7. | <p>Adopt the following narrative:</p>  |                 |    | Concur. |  |

**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:

**N00100**  
**DHS – Family Investment**

	<b>Amount Change</b>	<b>Position Change</b>	<b><u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Senate Decisions</u></b>	<b><u>House Decisions</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• the average number of days to process applications by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;</li> <li>• the percentage of applications denied by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;</li> <li>• the number and percentage of applications denied by reason for denial and by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, and TDAP separately by month;</li> <li>• the number of case closures by benefit type for TCA, TDAP, and SNAP separately by month; and</li> <li>• the reasons for case closure by benefit type for TCA, TDAP, and SNAP separately by month.</li> </ul>					

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

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

**N00I00**  
**DHS – Family Investment**

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

Concur.

**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; 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.

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

**N00I00.06**  
**DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs**

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

Concur.

**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.

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

**N00I00.06**  
**DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs**

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

**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 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 December 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.

Concur in part, DHS agrees to provide the report but requests the due date be changed to February 1, 2025, to account for the full reporting period.

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

3. Adopt the following narrative:

**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

Concur.

**N00I00.06**  
**DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs**

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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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.

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

**S00A**  
**Department of Housing and Community Development**

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</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		Concur.	