
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee

Additional Pages

March 14, 2024

E50C
State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Budget Amendment

E50C00.01 Office of the Director

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q00A
Administration and Offices
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendment

Q00A01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended for that purpose until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report on the development of apprenticeship programs to address labor shortages. The report shall detail all efforts by the department to create internal and external apprenticeship pathways, including specific milestones that have already been achieved and milestones that will be achieved, along with dates and expected deadlines. The report shall identify risk factors that may delay or prevent the development of departmental apprenticeship programs and the resources needed to support them. The report shall identify the potential impact of youth and adult apprenticeship pathways on existing labor shortages. The report shall also discuss the collaboration between DPSCS, any exclusive bargaining representatives of the employees, and the Department of Budget and Management, and the Maryland Department of Labor on public safety apprenticeships. The report shall be submitted by August 10, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: While most positions within DPSCS are not typically entered into via apprenticeship, most are considered apprenticeable according to COMAR 09.12.43.04. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, there are over 250 apprenticeable occupations, and correctional officer (CO) is one such occupation. The typical apprenticeship for COs is one year and is slightly more common than health care and engineering apprenticeships but much less common than construction. ~~Other DPSCS classifications would also be apprenticeable, including food service workers, maintenance workers, and equipment specialists.~~ DPSCS has expressed interest in creating apprenticeship programs and worked with the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Department of Labor on developing such programs. *DPSCS must also negotiate apprenticeship programs with any exclusive bargaining representatives.* While some progress has been reported on adult apprenticeships for existing employees, the budget committees are concerned that progress is too slow, *employee unions have not been engaged as required*, and limited to make the intended impact on critical labor shortages. This language requires a more detailed overview of apprenticeship usage within DPSCS and the plans for using apprenticeship pathways to mitigate labor shortages.

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

Q00B
Corrections
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

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

- an overview of the current prerelease program for women;
- goals and objectives;
- curriculum and activities, including particular attention to work release and job-related services;
- eligibility requirements;
- the number of applicants, individuals approved, individuals denied, current population, and average daily population for each month in fiscal 2024;
- resources dedicated to the program, including staff, funding, and facility space;
- a literature review of the program’s evidence-based practices for preparing women to re-enter society;
- a plan to measure program effectiveness, including any outcomes or performance data that will be measured and reported;
- a summary of participant satisfaction and feedback on the program;

- an evaluation of the inclusivity and accessibility of the program for women with various backgrounds and needs; and
- implementation challenges and future steps for improvement or expansion within the existing facility during the delay in constructing the new facility.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Prerelease programming for women	DPSCS	August 1, 2024

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Committee Narrative

V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary

Adopt the following narrative:

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

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

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Committee Narrative

V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary

Adopt the following narrative:

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

- a summary of operations during fiscal 2024 and 2025 as well as a summary of planned operations during fiscal 2025. The department should provide a list of organizations it is partnering with to facilitate the Thrive Academy in fiscal 2024 and 2025 as well as identify the number of youths participating in each jurisdiction;
- a description of the associated expenses to the department, including if DJS has any personnel dedicated to supporting the Thrive Academy’s operations, and the cost of the program per youth;
- an identification of how the Thrive Academy is funded in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and a plan for how it may be funded in future fiscal years. DJS should also describe how the removal of federal American Rescue Plan Act funding may impact the Thrive Academy;
- an update on the progress DJS has made on evaluating the Thrive Academy;
- any challenges that the department foresees associated with administering the Thrive Academy as well as any additional goals for the Thrive Academy that the department may have; and

- a description of how the department is using funding for the Enhance Services Continuum in fiscal 2025 to support youth who are not able to participate in the Thrive Academy.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Thrive Academy	DJS	November 1, 2024