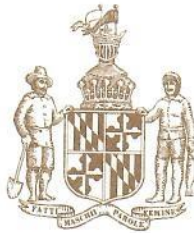


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Senate Bill 647 – Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding – Report
EMERGENCY BILL**

March 30, 2021

Madame Chair and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Under the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities Act; and the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, there is and will be a significant influx of federal dollars to the State of Maryland. Legislative Services reported in their January 2021 fiscal briefing that this amount should ultimately be over \$1.4 Billion.

Senate Bill 647 as amended will require the Department of Budget and Management to provide reports to Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee on or before March 15, 2021 and quarterly through June 30, 2022. The report should take account of:

- All federal COVID–19 relief funding received by the State or a political subdivision of the State;
- any federal COVID–19 relief funding received by the State or a political subdivision of the State for which the State or political subdivision was authorized to exercise any discretion in how the funding is spent;
- any additional COVID–19–related funding needs to which the Governor will prioritize any federal funding received by the State under federal legislation passed after the preparation of the report.

The report should include:

- The total amount of federal COVID–19 relief funding distributed to the State and each political subdivision of the State;
- detailed information on the federal COVID–19 relief funding allocated to a State program; to a program administered by a political subdivision of the State; to the State but not allocated to a State program; and provided to a political subdivision of the State but not allocated to a program administered by a political subdivision of the State;

- the total amount of federal COVID–19 relief funding for which the State may exercise any discretion as to how the funds are allocated for use;
- the criteria used to allocate the funding;
- the programs and purposes for which funding was allocated;
- the total amount of federal COVID–19 relief funding available to the State or a political subdivision of the State that has not been provided by the federal government and the reasons why the funding has not been provided.

The report should also identify any unmet funding needs of the State in responding to the 29 COVID–19 pandemic; and establish a plan to allocate additional federal funding received by the State.

This legislation will require the transparency and accountability that Marylanders deserve as these federal dollars are spent throughout the state and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 647.