



Senate Bill 828— Federal Obligations Enforcement Act

Senate Budget & Tax Committee
March 4, 2026

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

This bill addresses a situation that demands a principled response: a federal government that refuses to spend funds Congress has lawfully appropriated and courts have ordered disbursed. SB 828 gives Maryland a structured mechanism to act.

What the bill does

SB 828 authorizes the Board of Public Works, by majority vote, to declare the federal government delinquent in funds owed to the State. Those amounts are then referred to the Central Collection Unit of the Department of Budget and Management, which — in consultation with the Attorney General — may collect the funds, place liens on federal property in Maryland, and direct the Comptroller to withhold State payments to the federal government in a corresponding amount..

Why it is important

Maryland sends hundreds of millions of dollars to the federal government each year. When the federal government simultaneously withholds congressionally approved funds that support education, health care, and public safety, Marylanders pay twice — once in federal taxes and again through lost services.

The authority granted to this office under proposed §4-115 of the State Government Article is carefully constructed. It is triggered only after the Board of Public Works has made a formal delinquency determination and only for amounts that have been referred through the Central Collection Unit. This is a deliberate, multi-step process with appropriate institutional checks — not a unilateral action.

Responsible stewardship of State finances means ensuring Maryland meets its obligations and that Maryland is not left holding the bill when the federal government fails to meet its own.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration and am happy to answer any questions.

My best,

Brooke Lierman
Comptroller



