
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Additional Pages

March 15, 2023

D26A07
Maryland Department of Aging

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Update on Human Services Administrator II (HSA II) Recruitment: The HSA II role with the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) has remained vacant since October 2020. The HSA II position is a skilled service position overseeing the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy program and the Congregate Housing Services Program. The committees request that MDOA submit an update on the recruitment of the HSA II position, including:

- indication of the position’s filled or vacant status as of the submission of the report;
- if applicable, candidate’s anticipated date of response to an offer;
- stage and status of recruitment, if vacant at time of report submission; and
- recruitment strategy employed.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on HSA II recruitment	MDOA	August 1, 2023

D60A10 State Archives

Budget Amendments

D60A10.01 Archives

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may not be expended until the State Archives submits a report detailing a plan for filling all positions that became vacant on or before December 31, 2021. The report shall include a position description for each applicable vacancy, the salary for that position, and the estimated timeline for filling each position. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2023, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The State Archives currently has multiple positions which have been vacant for longer than one calendar year. This language restricts funds from the State Archives until the agency submits a report with a timeline for filling positions that have been vacant for more than one full calendar year, along with the salary and job descriptions for each vacant position.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Plan for filling long-term vacancies	State Archives	October 1, 2023

E80E
Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Baltimore City Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board (PTAAB) Backlog: At the end of calendar 2022, the backlog of property tax assessment appeals cases in Baltimore City was 511, while in similar jurisdictions elsewhere in the State the backlog was only in the range of 200 to 300. The committees are concerned about the backlog of the property tax assessment appeals in Baltimore City. The committees request a report regarding a plan and timeline to address the property tax assessment backlog in Baltimore City.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Baltimore City PTAAB case backlog	PTAAB	September 1, 2023

M00B0103
Office of Health Care Quality
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Regulations for Assisted Living Programs: In accordance with Chapters 479 and 480 of 2021, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) was required, by December 1, 2022, to convene stakeholders to revise assisted living program regulations and adopt regulations incorporating requirements for Alzheimer’s special care units. The committees request that MDH submit a report providing an update on meetings convened with stakeholders and adoption of revised assisted living program regulations. The report should include the timeline for completing these tasks and details regarding how the assisted living program regulations have been or will be updated.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on regulations for assisted living programs	MDH	September 1, 2023

M00B0104
Health Professional Boards and Commissions

Budget Amendments

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$25,000 for the Board of Dental Examiners, \$25,000 for the Board of Pharmacy, \$25,000 for the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, \$25,000 for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, \$25,000 for the Board of Social Work Examiners, and \$25,000 for the Board of Audiologists, made for the purposes of administrative expenses may not be expended until two joint reports are submitted by the Maryland Department of Health detailing efforts made to improve the timeliness of investigations for each board. The first report shall also include the final fiscal 2023 performance results for each board and the backlog of cases to be investigated by board. The second report should include any additional efforts taken, fiscal 2024 data through December 2023 performance of investigation timeliness by board, and the total backlog of cases that need to be investigated through December 2023 by board. The reports shall be submitted by August 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the final 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 of the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Several of the Health Professional Boards have missed their annual Managing for Results 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 two joint reports outlining efforts taken to correct the low investigations and clear any case backlogs and recent performance data.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Health Occupation Boards timely investigation goal	MDH	August 1, 2023 January 1, 2024

M00F
Public Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Recruitment: OCME has carried a high number of vacancies for the past several years, impacting the office’s ability to efficiently process autopsies and remain compliant with national caseload standards for medical examiner (ME) staff. As of January 2023, OCME had a vacancy rate of 21.53% and 10.5 vacant regular ME positions. In fiscal 2023, OCME obtained 21 additional authorized positions, resulting in a total of 104.5 total authorized positions. As of January 2023, OCME had filled 7 of the 21 new positions, and the office reported recruiting for additional assistant MEs, administrative support, autopsy assistants, investigators, and toxicologists. In February 2023, OCME reported working with the Postmortem Examiners Commission to select a candidate for the position of Chief Medical Examiner.

To better understand progress toward filling the vacancies, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a report describing planned and adopted strategies to fill vacancies at OCME. The report should include:

- classifications of 21 new authorized positions in fiscal 2023;
- classifications and hire dates for 7 of these new positions that were filled as of January 2023;
- anticipated timeline to fill the 14 new positions that remained vacant as of January 2023;
- recruitment strategies OCME has employed and plans to employ in calendar 2023, including costs of incentives offered to fill remaining vacancies; and
- status of recruitment for the Chief Medical Examiner role, including the hire date (if hired by submission of the report).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OCME recruitment	MDH	November 1, 2023

M00M
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Reservation of Waiver Slots for Emergency Placements: Annually, the Developmental Disabilities Administration reserves waiver slots for emergency placements, including for transitioning youth and military members moving into Maryland. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a report detailing the number of annual waiver slots that have been reserved for each of the last five fiscal years, including the number reserved and used by reserved category.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on reservation of waiver slots for emergency placements	MDH	November 1, 2023

M00M
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on the status of the people served by the Developmental Disabilities Administration’s (DDA) Community Services program who were enrolled in a DDA Medicaid waiver program. The report should include:

- (1) the number of individuals served in the Community Services program;
- (2) the number of those enrolled in the DDA waiver program separately by waiver;
- (3) the percent of individuals served through DDA waivers;
- (4) the cost per individual per DDA waiver program;
- (54) a comparison of the fiscal 2024 Managing for Results data as submitted with the budget and any revised data showing changes to the total number of individuals served and the numbers enrolled in waivers, including explanations for the difference; and
- (65) a discussion of how the data is expected to be submitted going forward to ensure an accurate count.

Explanation: MDH reported that the *Managing for Results* (MFR) data that was provided to the Department of Legislative Services was incorrect and subsequently provided revised data. The budget committees remain interested in the status of individuals served across DDA’s waiver programs as well as the accuracy of the data provided. This language would restrict \$100,000 *in general funds* until MDH submits a report discussing the program and reconciles the data initially provided with any revised data.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on updated MFR data related to the community services waiver program	MDH	July 1, 2023

M00Q01
Medical Care Programs Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Quarterly Reports on Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination: As a condition of receiving an enhanced federal match on qualifying Medicaid and Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) spending during the COVID-19 public health emergency, Maryland has been required to freeze Medicaid disenrollment (with limited exceptions). Beginning April 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will resume Medicaid eligibility renewals and redetermination that may result in disenrollment. The committees request that MDH submit quarterly reports on the Medicaid and MCHP eligibility redetermination process. Each report should include the following data on a monthly basis and divided by eligibility category:

- the number of eligibility renewals initiated;
- the number of new individuals enrolled;
- the number of individuals enrolled who received medical assistance and were subsequently disenrolled any time in the six months prior to reenrolling;
- the number of individuals disenrolled along with the number disenrolled by reason for disenrollment, identifying disenrollments due to failure to apply for recertification, missing information/verifications, overscaled income, aging out of a Medicaid eligibility category, and other common reasons for disenrollment;
- call center volume, average wait times, and any other data related to call center activities that are required to be submitted to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and
- measures of application processing times and total numbers of applications processed for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) eligibility groups and non-MAGI eligibility groups shown separately.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly reports on Medicaid and MCHP eligibility redetermination	MDH	July 15, 2023 October 15, 2023 January 15, 2024 April 15, 2024

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

Add the following language:

, provided that, contingent upon enactment of SB 786 or HB 812, \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) may not be expended until MHCC submits:

- (1) regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review for implementing restrictions of protected health data related to legally protected health care in health information exchanges and electronic health networks, as required under SB 786 or HB 812; and
- (2) a letter to the budget committees confirming the submission of the regulations. The letter shall include the proposed regulations and estimated adoption and effective dates for the regulations.

The letter shall be submitted within 30 days of the submission of regulations, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the letter to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of the letter may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This action, contingent on enactment of SB 786 or HB 812, restricts funds for administration until MHCC submits (1) required regulations for implementing restrictions of protected health data related to legally protected health care in health information exchanges and electronic health networks; and (2) a letter confirming the submission of regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review and providing requested information on the timing of when the regulations will be adopted and take effect.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming the submission of regulations related to health information exchanges and electronic health records	MHCC	Within 30 days of the submission of regulations

N00B
Social Services Administration
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Hospital Stays by Youth in Out-of-home Placements: The committees continue to be concerned about children and youth experiencing stays in emergency rooms or inpatient hospital settings longer than is medically necessary. Data has been requested on hospital stays by youth in out-of-home placement 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 for each month of the period October 2022 through September 2023:

- the number of youths in out-of-home placements served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and the average length of stay (ALOS) by month;
- the number of youths 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 2023.

DHS should also include an overview of how hospital stay data is reported through the self-reporting process by Local Departments of Social Services, and the process by which DHS ensures the accuracy of this data.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on hospital stays, average length of stay, and placement after discharge	DHS	December 1, 2023

N00B
Social Services Administration
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Child Welfare Caseload Data: The committees believe that maintaining an adequate child welfare workforce is essential to improving outcomes for children entering the State's care. Therefore, in order to maintain oversight of this important issue, the committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) report to the committees on the number of 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 current within 70 days:

- intake screening;
- child protective investigation;
- consolidated in-home services;
- interagency family preservation services;
- services to families with children- intake;
- foster care;
- kinship care;
- family foster care;
- family foster homes- recruitment and new applications;
- family foster homes- ongoing and licensing;
- adoption;
- interstate compact for the placement of children; and
- caseworker supervision.

The committees also request that DHS discuss 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. Specifically, DHS should discuss efforts to fill vacant positions in jurisdictions that had shortfalls in caseworker and supervisor positions, including Baltimore and Prince George’s counties, which had the largest shortfalls for caseworker positions among jurisdictions as of September 1, 2022. *Additionally, the committees request that DHS provide an update on efforts to fill vacant supervisor and caseworker positions in Baltimore City, which had the greatest number of total vacant supervisor and caseworker positions as of September 1, 2022.*

In addition to caseload data, the committees also request that the report contain an update on the status of work done by CWLA to implement new workload standards for child welfare and the efforts by DHS to improve recruitment and retention of caseworkers.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on caseload data and filled positions assigned by jurisdiction for specified caseload types	DHS	December 1, 2023

N00H
Child Support Administration
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Child Support Administration (CSA) Efforts to Fill Vacant Positions: The Department of Human Services (DHS) has been experiencing high vacancy rates departmentwide in recent years. As of December 31, 2022, CSA had 85.5 vacant positions, 8 of which had been unfilled for more than one year. Given recent departmentwide efforts to bolster employee recruitment, the committees are interested in monitoring vacancies at CSA. The committees request that DHS submit two reports using data as of May 30, 2023, and October 31, 2023. The reports should include:

- status of 8 positions that have been vacant for more than one year;
- planned or enacted changes to vacant positions, including reclassifications and position terminations;
- active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions; and
- actions taken to implement the recruitment and retention plan submitted by DHS in December 2022.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CSA efforts to fill vacant positions	DHS	July 7, 2023 December 1, 2023

N00I
Local Department Operations
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

N00G00.08 Assistance Payments

Adopt the following narrative:

Calculation of Income for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA): The committees are interested in understanding efforts by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adjust the calculation of income for purposes of eligibility and benefit determination to include a portion of certain federal housing subsidies. The committees request that DHS submit a report on any changes in regulations to exclude federal housing subsidies from income and other related adjustment in the calculation of income and other efforts to implement a change in the calculation. If the department has amended regulations, the committees request the report to also include information on:

- outreach to recipients that would be impacted by the change in calculation;
- the status of modifications to the Eligibility and Enrollment system to effectuate the change; and
- whether benefits have been altered due to the change in calculation from the amended regulations or when benefits are expected to be altered, including the number of recipients impacted and average value of increased benefits due to the change.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on calculation of income for TCA	DHS	December 15, 2023

N00I00.06
Office of Home Energy Programs
Department of Human Services

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

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 LAAs:

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

The report should also note any changes in application processing times occurring during fiscal 2024 due to the transition of the administration of programs from LAAs to local departments of social services as part of efforts to implement a unified administrative model for categorical eligibility determinations for energy assistance programs.

In addition, the committees request that DHS provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reason separately by benefit type. *Data should list denial rates by LAA and, if feasible, based on application intake method (for example, in-person versus online application filing).* Data should also 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 for under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2023 end-of-year actual data for denial rates should be included in the report as well as fiscal 2024 data current through November 1, 2023.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Application processing times and denial rates	DHS	December 31, 2023

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

Broadband Planning Process: It is the intent of the committees that funding provided by the Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB) to expand broadband infrastructure in the State be used to support high quality jobs with high quality wages and benefits. To this end, the committees request that OSB consult with relevant labor organizations during the development of a statewide broadband plan and the action plan required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. It is also the intent of the committees that OSB consider prioritizing fiber projects as well as projects that meet or exceed 100 megabits per second symmetrical speeds when awarding funding under the BEAD program. The committees request that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) submit a report on actions OSB is taking during the broadband planning process to ensure that broadband funding supports high quality jobs in the State.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on workforce considerations in the broadband planning process	DHCD	September 1, 2023

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

Air Conditioning in Residential Rental Units: The committees are interested in understanding the status of air conditioning in residential rental units in Baltimore City that are owned or operated by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC). The committees request that HABC provide a report identifying the number of units that HABC owns or operates that have air conditioning as well as the number of units HABC owns or operates that do not.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on air conditioning in residential rental units	HABC	November 1, 2023

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization

Statewide Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program: The committees are interested in exploring a statewide ERA program, given the discontinued federal funding for the federal ERA program. Therefore, it is the intent of the committees that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) establish and lead a task force to study the feasibility of creating and maintaining a statewide ERA program. The membership of the task force should consist of representatives from the House of Delegates, Senate of Maryland, Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the Judiciary, Maryland Association of Counties, local emergency rental assistance providers, nonprofit service providers, renters, advocates, and other interested parties. The committees request that the task force study the feasibility of a statewide ERA program, identify potential sources of sustainable funding, and make recommendations related to the following considerations:

- a framework for distributing the statewide ERA program, considering the jurisdictional need and jurisdictional administrative choice for distribution;
- income guidelines for targeting funds to low-income households in the State;
- how to leverage current data analyses to target outreach and implementation of a statewide ERA program;
- how to integrate the ERA program with court eviction proceedings;
- housing stability and tenant protections that should be incorporated into the program; and
- any other recommendations relevant to implementing a statewide ERA program.

DHCD should report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the committees by December 1, 2023.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on a statewide ERA program	DHCD	December 1, 2023

**D50H01
Military Department**

Budget Amendments

D50H01.05 State Operations

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

~~, provided that \$5,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent on the enactment of legislation to establish a program that provides health benefits to national guard members ,~~ *provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation is contingent on the enactment of legislation to establish a program that provides health benefits to National Guard members*

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment to ~~strike~~*amend* language making funding contingent on the enactment of legislation. A separate action ~~deletes~~*modifies the* funding for the program *to provide \$250,000.*

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

Delete—Reduce funds budgeted for the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program <i>to provide funds to support the program with a capped benefit.</i>	-\$5,000,000 GF -\$4,750,000
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