

Decision Document

**House Appropriations Committee
Education and Economic Development Subcommittee
2025 Session**

D17B0151

Historic St Mary's City Commission

	<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.			Concur		Adopt	

D18

Governor's Office for Children

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Notes</u>	<u>Hearing</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1.						
				Disagree - Baltimore City has the State's largest proportion of children living in poverty and this funding provides support to existing programs and ensures new services can be offered.	Reject	
	-\$2,000,000	GF				
2.						
				Disagree - GOC disagrees and reports that the current design of the ENOUGH grant program includes competitive awards that increase in size as communities advance through three pathways. Program eligibility expands in fiscal 2027. GOC estimates that the majority of communities currently receiving funding will be able to advance to the following pathway in the next year of the program.	Reject	
	-\$15,000,000	GF				
	-\$15,000,000	SF				

D18

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
3. Add the following section: Section XX Out-of-home Placements Report			No response	Adopt	

SECTION XX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Department of Human Services Social Services Administration, \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Department of Juvenile Services, \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration, and \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Maryland State Department of Education may not be expended until the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) submits a report on behalf of the Children's Cabinet to the budget committees on out-of-home placements (OOHP) containing:

- (1) the total number and one-day counts (as of October 15) of OOHPs and entries by jurisdiction, by agency, and by placement type for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026;
- (2) the total number and one-day counts (as of October 15) of out-of-state placements, including the number of family home, community-based, and noncommunity-based out-of-state placements for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 categorized by state and by age category;
- (3) the costs associated with OOHPs;
- (4) an examination of recent placement trends;
- (5) findings of child abuse and neglect occurring while families are receiving family preservation services or within one year of each case closure; and

D18

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Notes</u>	<u>Hearing</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(6)						

areas of concern related to trends in OOHPs and/or out-of-state placements and potential corrective actions that the Children's Cabinet and local management boards can take to address these concerns.

Further provided that each agency or administration that funds or places children and youth in OOHPs shall assist GOC and comply with any data requests necessary for the timely production of the report. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by January 1, 2027, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise for any other purpose. Should the report not be submitted by the requested date, the restricted funds shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation:

The OOHP report is a report required by § 8-703(e) of the Human Services Article. It is also annually requested to be submitted to the budget committees. This report is a useful evaluative tool to assess the wellbeing of Maryland's youth and families and to identify areas of concern related to youth placed out of home. This language restricts funds in each of the data reporting agencies and specifies the data of interest to the General Assembly, including agency-specific data for out-of-home and out-of-state placements.

D25

Interagency Commission on School Construction

	<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. Abolish PIN 002433 for an Administrative Specialist III that has been vacant since February 2025.			-1.00	Disagree	Reject	
	-\$95,504	GF				

D73

MD Office of the Inspector General for Education

	<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.			Concur		Reject	

Additional First House Action

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Local Cooperation with the Office of the Inspector General for Education: The number of complaints received by the Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) has increased by approximately 43%, from 407 in calendar 2024 to 583 in calendar 2025. The office has indicated that some investigations have been delayed due to challenges obtaining records from certain local education agencies (LEA). In some cases, LEAs require OIGE to obtain subpoenas before providing records. In other cases, records provided were incomplete or did not correspond to the requested documents, requiring additional subpoenas and extending investigation timelines. The committees request that OIGE submit a report identifying the LEAs that required subpoenas for the release of records and describing the factors that contributed to delays in obtaining requested information for cases in calendar 2025 and 2026 year to date.

Adopt

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Local Cooperation with the Office of the Inspector General for Education	OIGE	August 1, 2026

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>
1. Adopt the following narrative:			Concur		Adopt	

Anticipated Spending in the Proposed Operating Budget: The committees request that the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) program anticipated spending in the proposed fiscal 2028 budget to minimize the potential for reallocating large percentages of funds intended for grants to other purposes. The proposed budget, as shown in the Governor's Fiscal 2028 Budget Books, should include anticipated spending by budget object. The supporting budget data should include anticipated contracts, the purposes of contracts, and the entities expected to fulfill the contracts, where known. The committees recognize that these estimates may be subject to change based on unanticipated program needs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Anticipated spending by budget object and anticipated contracts	WNADA DBM	With the submission of the fiscal 2028 operating budget

E75D

State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

	<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.			Concur		Adopt	

P00

Maryland Department of Labor

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Delete funding for Maryland Teaching Residents Artificial Intelligence Now!					
	-\$2,000,000	GF	Disagree - Agency maintains that MD TRAIN is needed to help workers and employers keep pace with AI.	Reject	
2. Reduce funding for the Dwyer Workforce Development grant to the fiscal 2026 level.					
	-\$250,000	GF	No response - Agency neither agrees nor disagrees with recommendation.	Adopt	
3. Reduce funding for the Adult High School External Program to the fiscal 2026 level after a proposed deficiency.					
	-\$400,000	GF	Disagree - Agency states that program is already reduced by \$400,000, but reduction was originally taken out of wrong place in budget. Fixed in supplemental budget.	Reject	

R00A01

MSDE Headquarters

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Notes</u>	<u>Hearing</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1.				Concur		Adopt
	<u>. provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submits a report to the budget committees describing how the agency has implemented feedback and corrective actions from the Office of Legislative Audits related to the January 2026 fiscal compliance audit of the agency. The report shall include the following:</u>					
	(1) <u>the procedures in place to ensure that applicants who will have direct access to minors undergo the required preemployment screenings, including criminal history, past disciplinary action, and licensing checks;</u>					
	(2) <u>the system in place for monitoring local education agencies' (LEA) class assignment practices to ensure that teachers are only assigned to areas in which they are licensed;</u>					
	(3) <u>MSDE's process and capacity for independently reviewing and approving initial educator license applications;</u>					
	(4) <u>the procedures established to ensure the accuracy of LEAs' eligibility determinations for prekindergarten funding;</u>					
	(5) <u>the status of federal fund reimbursement requests, the outstanding balance of expenditures that are awaiting federal reimbursement, the actions taken to obtain reimbursement in a timely manner, and the system developed to document federal revenues and expenditures;</u>					
	(6) <u>the justification for procuring non-competitive contracts, the process for documenting the scope of services required under each</u>					

R00A01

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
		<u>agreement, and any steps MSDE has taken to recover funds paid for undelivered services; and</u>		
(7)		<u>from January 2025 onward, a list of reimbursements owed to 21st Century Community Learning Centers that exceeded the 60-day required window, as well as the agency's justification for delays and the steps in place to ensure timely reimbursements.</u>		

The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than December 1, 2026. 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:

A January 2026 fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) contained 11 findings related to MSDE for the period from June 2021 to July 2024. The report disclosed issues with hiring and licensing oversight and financial management, as well as 2 redacted cybersecurity findings. This language restricts funding pending a report discussing OLA's feedback and the changes made to MSDE's oversight and documentation processes.

R00A01

		<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Information Request	Author						
Report on hiring, licensing, and financial management oversight	MSDE						
			Due Date				
			December 1, 2026				
2.	Adopt the following narrative:			Concur		Adopt	
	<p>Report on Accounting Practices: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a closeout report by October 1, 2026. This report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation for encumbrances and reversions for all general, special, federal, and reimbursable funds for any amount that does not equal zero; and • expenditures and closeout balances by program for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026. 						
Information Request	Author						
Report on accounting practices	MSDE						
			Due Date				
			October 1, 2026				

R00A01

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

Report on State Education Agency Federal Stimulus Funds: Due to school closures prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) received approximately \$3.6 billion in State Education Agency (SEA) federal stimulus funds. Though most of the funds have been obligated, significant amounts have not been expended. To ensure proper monitoring of the use of these funds, the committees request that MSDE report by January 1, 2027, on all SEA program expenditures distributed as part of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds. This report should include:

- grant expenditures by school and program for State-mandated funds allocated to the Maryland School for the Blind, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and the School for Educational Evolution and Development;
- grant procedures, allocations, and expenditures by program for all discretionary allocations;
- expenditures by MSDE department and object for administrative costs; and
- unexpended funds by program, reasons that funds were not allocated or expended, anticipated expenditures of those funds by program for future years, and funds that may have been canceled.

R00A01

Information Request	Author	Due Date	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Report on SEA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds	MSDE	January 1, 2027						

4. Adopt the following narrative: Concur Adopt

Report on the Maryland Leads Program: The American Rescue Plan Act requires State agencies to spend a designated percentage of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds to address learning loss. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) applied these funds to a grant program for local education agencies (LEA), Maryland Leads. To ensure proper oversight of this program and funding, the committees request that MSDE report by December 1, 2026, on the Maryland Leads program. The report should include the following information:

- a summary of progress on Maryland Leads objectives to date;
- LEA implementation plans by Maryland Leads subprogram;
- expenditures by LEA and subprogram for fiscal 2025 and 2026, including expenditures on personnel;
- standardized assessment measures, outcome measures, and progress, by LEA and program, on the framework implemented by MSDE to remediate student learning loss;

R00A01

	<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"> • documentation of improvements in literacy and mathematics proficiency, by LEA, grade, and subprogram, as the result of Maryland Leads initiatives; and • documentation of how MSDE shares Maryland Leads information with the public, either on the MSDE website, LEA websites, or by other means. 						

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Maryland Leads	MSDE	December 1, 2026

5. Adopt the following narrative: Concur Adopt

Report on Science of Reading (SoR) and State Literacy Policy: In January 2024, the State Board of Education (SBOE) passed Resolution 24-01 adopting SoR as Maryland’s official approach to literacy instruction and required local education agencies (LEA) to align their literacy instruction to SoR starting in the 2024-2025 school year. As part of this resolution, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was tasked with drafting a comprehensive literacy policy for prekindergarten through third grade that aligned with SoR and MSDE’s strategic plan. MSDE also received a total of \$47.2 million from federal and nonprofit grants to implement initiatives to improve early literacy proficiency and SoR professional development. The committees request that MSDE and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submit a report by October 1, 2026, on SoR and State literacy policy. The report should include the following information:

R00A01

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

Report on Safe Schools Fund (SSF) Utilization: The committees request that the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) submit a report by September 1, 2026. The report should include the following:

- allocations and expenditures by local education agency (LEA) for the School Resource Officer grant program; the Hate Crimes Grant; the SSF Grant; and any other one-time grants, programs, or evaluations administrated by MCSS;
- the starting and ending balances for fiscal 2022 through 2026, and projected balances for fiscal 2027 through 2028;
- obstacles to balance utilization and LEA participation; and
- potential solutions to those obstacles.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on SSF utilization	MCSS	September 1, 2026

Additional First House Action

7. Adopt the following narrative:

Free Driver Education Implementation Plan: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education submit an implementation plan by September 1, 2026, describing how local education agencies (LEA) can

Adopt

R00A01

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>implement free driver education classes to students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programming for which driver’s licenses are relevant and for students seeking jobs that require a driver’s license for employment. The plan should also discuss the resources needed to provide free driver education for the aforementioned student groups, including estimated annual cost per student. The plan should also provide an estimated timeline for implementing the program and recommend statutory or regulatory changes necessary to address barriers to students securing drivers licenses, such as licensing timelines and instructor qualifications. Finally, the plan should describe lessons learned from implementation of a free driver education pilot in Baltimore City and explain how these lessons will be incorporated into implementation in other LEAs.</p>						

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Free driver education implementation plan	Maryland State Department of Education	September 1, 2026

Additional First House Action

- 8. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Qualifications: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education submit a report by August 1, 2026, with information from all local education agencies on the educational and professional qualifications of each of their CFOs and the job training and professional development provided to them. The description of job

Adopt

R00A01

<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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training and professional development for CFOs should include the number of days of training and brief summaries of the information covered.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CFO qualifications	Maryland State Department of Education Local Education Agencies	August 1, 2026

R00A02

MSDE Aid to Education

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Delete the appropriation for a grant to the Yleana Leadership Foundation, which is no longer in operation.	-\$70,000	GF	Concur	Adopt	
2. Reduce Adult High School Pilot Program general funds to the level of actual expenditures. In fiscal 2025, the program only had two eligible applicants.	-\$750,000	GF	Disagree	Adopt	
3. Reduce Student Field Trip Fund general funds to the level of actual expenditures. Local education agencies requested reimbursement for \$376,716 in fiscal 2025.	-\$100,000	GF	Disagree - "The Student Field Trip program was first funded in fiscal 2025. While slow to get off the ground, the program has obligated or spent most of the fiscal 2026 appropriation."	Reject	
4. Reduce Leading Men Fellowship general funds to the level appropriated in the three prior fiscal years.	-\$100,000	GF	Disagree	Reject	

R00A02

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
5.			Disagree	Reject	
	-\$1,000,000	GF			
6.			No response - "MSDE will follow the guidance of the General Assembly."	Reject	
					<p><u>, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of education State aid for the Montgomery County Public Schools in the Aid to Education budget may not be expended until the local education agency submits a report to the budget committees containing information regarding COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures. The report shall include:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>the county board's use of federal funding to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education; and</u></p> <p>(2) <u>State funding received to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Program, including a description of the amount of funding spent on student instruction.</u></p> <p><u>Additionally, as part of this submission, Montgomery County should review previous reports for this purpose and document corrections.</u></p> <p><u>The report shall be submitted by July 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the reports to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of reports 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.</u></p>

R00A02

	<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	Agency Response <u>Notes</u>	Hearing	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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Explanation: In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, local education agencies (LEA) received a total of \$256.6 million as authorized in the RELIEF Act (Chapter 39 of 2021) and allocated in the fiscal 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 357 of 2021) for tutoring, behavioral health, summer school, school reopening, and transitional supplemental instruction. Because LEAs reported still carrying COVID-19 federal stimulus fund balances in calendar 2024, committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen's Report* requested LEAs submit a final closeout report on expenditures. Montgomery County was the only LEA to not submit the requested information. This language restricts a portion of the aid to Montgomery County Public Schools pending submission of the overdue report.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Report on Montgomery County's Covid-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Expenditures	Montgomery County Public Schools	July 1, 2026
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7.	Add the following language:	Concur	Reject
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provided that \$9,261,250 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Academic Excellence Fund, R00A02.60, may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by

R00A02

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<u>budget amendment to program R00A01.03 Office of Teaching and Learning to be used only for administrative expenses for the Academic Excellence Fund. 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.</u>				

Explanation:

This language requires the transfer of the administrative appropriation for the Academic Excellence Fund from the Maryland State Department of Education's Aid to Education budget to the Office of Teaching and Learning in the Headquarters budget. Academic Excellence Fund grants will remain in the Aid to Education budget.

R00A02

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
8.			No response - "MSDE will follow the guidance of the General Assembly."	Adopt	

Final Reports on Local Education Agency (LEA) COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Expenditures: In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, LEAs received a total of \$256.6 million as authorized in the RELIEF Act (Chapter 39 of 2021) and allocated in the fiscal 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 357 of 2021) for tutoring, behavioral health, summer school, school reopening, and transitional supplemental instruction. As part of mandated reporting in Chapter 55 of 2021, the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Program – Revisions, LEAs were required to report on expenditures of these funds to the General Assembly and the Accountability and Implementation Board through calendar 2023. However, as of December 2025, multiple LEAs still report carrying federal stimulus fund balances. Therefore, the committees request that the LEAs with remaining balances submit a final closeout report by October 1, 2026, consistent with the requirements of the previously mandated report on COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures, which requested the following information: (1) the county board’s use of federal funding to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education; and (2) State funding received to implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Program, including a description of the amount of funding spent on student instruction. Additionally, as part of this submission, LEAs should review previous reports for this purpose and document corrections in this final report. The jurisdictions that have expended all federal stimulus funds and are therefore exempt are as follows: Allegany County; Anne Arundel County; Frederick County; St. Mary’s County; and Worcester County.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reports on LEA COVID-19 expenditures	LEAs	October 1, 2026

R00A02

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

Report on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP): The committees remain interested in tracking the costs for MCAP assessment development and implementation. The committees request by October 1, 2026, that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a report on MCAP, which should include, but is not limited to:

- a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;
- details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2026-2027 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;
- details on MCAP administration in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;
- anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years;
- expenditures in fiscal 2026 and 2027, and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2028, for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor;

R00A02

	<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"> • a discussion of reasons for increased costs relative to budgeted expenses for MCAP assessments and how MSDE is working to improve its forecasting of these costs beginning with the fiscal 2028 budget submission; • information pertaining to any formal review of MCAP assessments and standards in calendar 2027 and 2028 by MSDE, by curriculum and assessment, including any anticipated changes to MCAP assessments as a result of that review and the projected costs of those changes; and • alignment of MCAP goals and outcomes with Blueprint for Maryland’s Future outcome measures. 						

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MCAP	MSDE	October 1, 2026

10. Adopt the following narrative: Concur Reject

Report on Enrollment and Counts for Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Programs: The committees request a report by October 1, 2026, on Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students; the count of national board certification-eligible (NBC) teachers in the career ladder program; and student counts for the college and career readiness (CCR) program.

R00A02

<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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For FRPM student enrollment, this report should include data by local education agency (LEA) and school for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.

For NBC teachers counts, the report should include the following data by LEA and school-type (either low-performing and non-low-performing) if applicable:

- count of teachers eligible for a fiscal 2026 award and their year of NBC attainment;
- count of teachers who attempted NBC but did not attain it in either school year 2024-2025 or 2025-2026;
- count of teachers attempting NBC in school year 2026-2027; and
- steps taken by MSDE and LEAs to encourage NBC teachers to move to low-performing schools.

For CCR student counts, this report and data should include projected CCR counts and funding from fiscal 2028 through 2031 based on expanded CCR standard.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on enrollment and counts for Blueprint for Maryland’s Future programs	MSDE	October 1, 2026

R00A02

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

Report on the Autism Waiver Program: The committees request a report by October 1, 2026, on the Autism Waiver program, which is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This status update should provide information on the following:

- the current number of individuals on the Autism Waiver waitlist;
- the number of slots utilized in fiscal 2023 through 2026;
- the number of slots in use in fiscal 2027;
- the average cost per slot in fiscal 2023 through 2026 and forecasted for fiscal 2027 through 2032;
- a timeline for unfreezing enrollment and increasing utilized slots to the target level;
- MSDE's strategy for managing high program costs, including specific cost containment measures implemented and anticipated savings from these measures; and
- projected costs for Autism Waiver services through fiscal 2032 by year based on the timeline for increasing utilized slots.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the autism waiver program	MSDE	October 1, 2026

R00A02

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

Report on the Nonpublic Placement Program: The committees request a report on costs for the Nonpublic Placement program; implementation of nonpublic school special education teacher pay parity related to the Teacher Pay Parity Act (Chapter 648 of 2023); and actions taken by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to implement this program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report by October 1, 2026, including (1) program closeout data for fiscal 2026 by provider, including annual reimbursement costs and any costs that could not be covered within the fiscal 2026 appropriation; (2) actions taken in calendar 2026 and 2027 to implement Chapter 648; and (3) planned actions related to implementation of Chapter 648 and efforts to achieve pay parity in future years.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the nonpublic placement program	MSDE	October 1, 2026

Additional First House Action

13. Add the following language:	Adopt
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, provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that public school counselors with National Board Certifications (NBC) receive salary increases equal to those received by public school teachers with NBC.

R00A02

<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: This language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that public school counselors with NBC are subject to the same salary increase schedule as public school teachers.

Additional First House Action

14. Adopt the following narrative: Adopt

Report on Enrollment and Counts for Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Programs: The committees request a report by October 1, 2026, on Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students; the count of national board certification (NBC) eligible teachers in the career ladder program; and student counts for the college and career readiness (CCR) program.

For FRPM student enrollment, this report should include data by local education agency (LEA) and school for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.

For NBC teachers counts, the report should include the following data by LEA and school-type (either low-performing and non-low-performing) if applicable:

- count of teachers eligible for a fiscal 2026 award and their year of NBC attainment;
- count of teachers who attempted NBC but did not attain it in either school year 2024-2025 or 2025-2026;

R00A02

	<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"> • count of teachers attempting NBC in school year 2026-2027; • count of school counselors who hold NBC in school counseling; • count of school counselors who have enrolled in, registered for, or submitted at least one component of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards school counseling certification process during school year 2024-2025 or 2025-2026; and • steps taken by MSDE and LEAs to encourage NBC staff to move to low-performing schools. 						

For CCR student counts, this report and data should include projected CCR counts and funding from fiscal 2028 through 2031 based on expanded CCR standard.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on enrollment and counts for Blueprint for Maryland's Future programs	MSDE	October 1, 2026

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

	<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.						
Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:			Concur		Adopt	
<u>Further provided that \$569,800 of this appropriation shall be used only to provide an additional award for each student with special needs that is at least equal in amount to the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program scholarship award that a student is awarded in accordance with paragraph (6) above.</u>						
<u>Further provided that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall submit a report to the budget committees by January 15, 2027, that includes the following:</u>						
<u>(1.) the number of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u>						
<u>(2) the amount of the BOOST Program scholarships received;</u>						
<u>(3) the number of certified and noncertified teachers in core subject areas for each nonpublic school participating in the BOOST Program;</u>						
<u>(4) the assessments being administered by nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program and the results of these assessments. MSDE shall report the assessment results reported by nonpublic schools to the budget committees in an aggregate manner that does not violate student data privacy;</u>						
<u>(5) in the aggregate, for each BOOST Program scholarship awarded (a) the nonpublic school and grade level attended by the student; (b) the school attended in the 2025-2026 school year by the student; and (c) if the student attended the same nonpublic school in the 2025-2026 school year, whether, what type, and how much nonpublic scholarship aid the student received in the 2025-2026 school year and will receive in the 2026-2027 school year;</u>						

R00A03

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:	<p>This language requires MSDE to report by January 15, 2027, on the distribution of the BOOST scholarships; information on the students receiving BOOST scholarships; teacher certifications for nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program; and assessments being administered in nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program, including student performance. The language also requires that MSDE report on students who choose to decline scholarships or attend public schools after participating in the BOOST Program in the past, along with their reasons for doing so, and information on students receiving scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools that they were attending. Finally, the language requires that the BOOST Advisory Board shall take into account the special needs of students with disabilities as it is determining scholarship award amounts and that \$569,800 of the BOOST appropriation shall be used to provide higher awards for these students.</p>					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
BOOST Program participation	MSDE	January 15, 2027

R00A03

	<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. Amend the following language:			Concur		Adopt	
<p>, provided that this appropriation shall be for a Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program that provides scholarships for students who are eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall administer the grant program in accordance with the following guidelines:</p> <p>(1) To be eligible to participate in the BOOST Program, a nonpublic school must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) have participated in Program R00A03.04 Aid to Non-Public Schools Program for textbooks and computer hardware and software administered by MSDE during the 2024-2025 <u>2025-2026</u> school year;(b) provide more than only prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;(c) administer national, norm-referenced standardized assessments chosen from the list of assessments published by the U.S. Department of Education used for the 2024-25 school year to qualify nonpublic schools for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The nonpublic schools must administer the assessments to all students as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) English/language arts and mathematics assessments each year for students in grades 3 through 8, and at least once for students in grades 9 through 12; and(ii) a science assessment at least once for students in grades 3 through 5, at least once for students in grades 6 through 8 <u>9</u>, and at least once for students in grades 9 <u>10</u> through 12; and(d) comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title 20, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article, and not discriminate in student admissions, retention, or expulsion or otherwise discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Nothing herein shall require any school or institution to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with its religious or moral						

R00A03

<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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teachings. However, all participating schools must agree that they will not discriminate in student admissions, retention, or expulsion or otherwise discriminate against any student based on race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. If a nonpublic school does not comply with these requirements, it shall reimburse MSDE all scholarship funds received under the BOOST Program for the ~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 school year and may not charge the student tuition and fees instead. The only other legal remedy for violation of this provision is ineligibility for participating in the BOOST Program.

Explanation: This language makes technical changes to align annual language related to the BOOST Program with policies set in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill. This language specifies that to be eligible to participate in the BOOST Program, a nonpublic school must have participated in the program for textbooks and computer hardware and software administered by MSDE during the prior school year (2025-2026), and must administer national, norm-referenced standardized assessments chosen from the list of assessments published by the U.S. Department of Education to qualify nonpublic schools for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. This language also specifies that if a nonpublic school does not comply with these requirements, it shall reimburse MSDE all scholarship funds received under the BOOST Program for the 2026-2027 school year.

R00A99

MSDE Early Childhood Development

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Adopt the following narrative:</p> <p>Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Quarterly Reports: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has implemented a series of significant changes under the CCS program. These changes, along with increasing program enrollment, have contributed to higher costs and shortfalls in fiscal 2023 through 2026. In response to these financial pressures, the department has implemented an enrollment freeze as a cost-saving measure to control program expenditures and align them with available funding. The committees request that MSDE submit quarterly reports with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monthly CCS expenditures by fund; • fiscal 2027 year-to-date spending and annualized cost estimates, noting the adequacy of remaining State and federal fund sources; • the number of scholarships awarded by income eligibility category by month, total expenditures for those scholarships, and average cost per child; • updates on the CCS waiting list including which income categories are impacted, how many children and families have applied for CCS benefits and been added to the waiting list by county and family income levels; • information on outreach efforts to families on the waiting list, including how families are notified of their status, any actions required to maintain eligibility, and strategies used to ensure families remain informed during the enrollment freeze; • the number of children and families removed from the waiting list and subsequently enrolled in the program, disaggregated by county and family income level, including the average length of time on the waiting list prior to enrollment; and 			<p>Concur in part - MSDE requests a modification to the reporting requirements. Currently, the MSDE provides monthly reports as required in §9.5-112 of the Education Article. MSDE proposes eliminating the monthly report in the month the quarterly reports are submitted, the 15th of September, December, March and June.</p>	<p>Adopt</p>	

R00A99

<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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- the total available federal funds updated quarterly including carry over balances from prior years.

In its September 2026 report, MSDE should include actual data for the CCS program in the final quarter of fiscal 2026 and aggregate fiscal 2026 data. All reports should provide data on a monthly basis for fiscal 2027 year to date.

Information Request Author

Due Date

CCS quarterly expenditure reports MSDE

September 15, 2026
December 15, 2026
March 15, 2027
June 15, 2027

Additional First House Action

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Adopt

Data Collection for the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services (IECMHSS) Program: Until fiscal 2025, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) contracted with the University of Maryland School of Social Work to collect statewide data on the IECMHSS Program. The data included information on the demographics of children served, consultations with child care staff and parents or caregivers, program locations, outcomes related to behavioral health, and consultant demographics and salaries. These data were compiled into reports for MSDE and shared with the General Assembly and stakeholders to support program monitoring and

R00A99

<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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quality improvement. MSDE did not renew this contract in fiscal 2025. Although some data are currently collected by the nine IECMHSS programs, the data is not collected consistently across the State and is not reported publicly. The committees request that MSDE submit a report describing how the department is currently collecting these data and include statewide information on the program data previously collected under the contract with the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Information Request Author

Due Date

Report on IECMHSS MSDE
Program data
collection

August 1, 2026

R12

Accountability and Implementation Board

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

Status Report on Blueprint Implementation: The committees request that the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submit a report by September 1, 2026, on agency actions to implement Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (Blueprint). This report shall include a timeline and detailed information on the progress in completing and/or implementing the following programs, reports, and measures:

- calendar 2026 and 2027 local education agency (LEA) Blueprint implementation plans and current status relative to minimum school funding requirements;
- calendar 2025 and 2026 State agency Blueprint implementation plans;
- collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and the teacher preparation workgroup to revise teacher preparation program requirements;
- targeted training on Blueprint and any changes to training and/or funding for the 2026-2027 school year;
- measures taken for any LEAs that did not meet the July 1, 2026 deadline to increase minimum salaries to \$60,000;
- progress on the independent evaluation of Blueprint implementation and outcomes;
- LEA and Career and Technology Education Committee technical assistance Phase I and II grants, including use of funds; roles and responsibilities of strategic facilitators; categorized expenditures by LEA; and AIB collaboration, training, and accountability measures for grantees;
- LEA career ladder implementation plans;

R12

<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"> • LEA career counseling programs for middle and high school students and accompanying fiscal reports; • monthly Blueprint financial reporting on minimum funding requirements; and • progress to determine Blueprint final outcome measures, baseline data, and targets for early childhood education; college and career readiness; career ladder; student support personnel; or any other outcome measures under development. 					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status report on Blueprint implementation	AIB	September 1, 2026

R13M00

Morgan State University

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

R14D00

St. Mary's College of Maryland

	<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.			Concur		Adopt	

R15P00

Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

	<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. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur		Adopt	

R30B22

University of Maryland, College Park Campus

<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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Additional First House Action

1. Add the following language:

Further provided that this appropriation made for the purpose of funding the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub at the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy shall be reduced by \$350,000.

Explanation:

Chapter 679 of 2022 mandated funding of the Consumer Health Information Hub at the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy from fiscal 2022 through 2026. Though the mandate ended, funding was inadvertently included in the University of Maryland, College Park’s appropriation for this hub.

R30B23

Bowie State University

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

R30B27

Coppin State University

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

R30B28

University of Baltimore

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

R30B29

Salisbury University

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

R30B30

University of Maryland Global Campus

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

National Marketing Campaign: The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) is undertaking a new national campaign to expand its reach, with authorization to spend \$246 million over a three-year period from July 3, 2025, to June 30, 2028. The committees are interested in the results of this campaign. The committees request that UMGC submit a report by December 15, 2026, detailing the amount spent in each fiscal year, as well as the number and dollar value of each media contract used, and the number of new students gained each fiscal year. The report should also include metrics on how the institution determined enrollment gains from the campaign.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
National Marketing Campaign	UMGC	December 15, 2026

2.				Concur		Adopt
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UMGC Ventures and AccelerEd’s Reintegration: Since June 13, 2025, the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) has been reintegrating UMGC Ventures and AccelerEd, its former information technology (IT) office that was spun-off as a High Impact Economic Development Activity. The committees are interested in better understanding the progress of the reintegration and request UMGC submit a report containing the following information as of November 1, 2026:

R30B30

<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"> • the timeline for hiring, including the date hiring began; • the number of vacant IT positions, including employee class title; • the status of contracts AccelerEd used for its operations, including if these contracts will continue after reintegration; • the status of revenue-generating contracts AccelerEd had, including if these contracts will continue after reintegration; • any recoveries related to the original seed investment in AccelerEd and UMGC Ventures and an explanation for why, if some or all funds were not recovered; • a complete list of UMGC Ventures' assets and any assets that have been sold since UMGC Ventures began operations, including the price and date of the sale; and • the status of transferring UMGC Ventures' ownership in HelioCampus to UMGC. 					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Ventures and AccelerEd's Reintegration	UMGC	December 1, 2026

R30B31

University of Maryland Baltimore County

	<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. Concur with Governor's allowance.			Concur		Adopt	

R30B34

UM Center for Environmental Science

	<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.			Concur		Adopt	

R30B36

University System of Maryland Office

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

R62I0001

Maryland Higher Education Commission

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing</u> <u>Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce the general fund appropriation by \$250,000 as these funds represent a backfill of withheld funds that were not released due to progress not being in resolving repeat audit findings. The Maryland Higher Education Commission may allocate the reduction across general administration program.			Disagree	Adopt	
	-\$250,000	GF			

Additional First House Action

2. Add the following language:
- , provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation made for general administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) submits a report detailing for each fiscal 2020 through 2025, the appropriation and usage of funds for each grant, scholarship, and loan assistance repayment program administered by MHEC. The report should include, by program, the total appropriation; number of recipients, total amount of awards, program deficit or surplus, if the program had a deficit how the shortfall was covered and if a surplus if the funds were transferred to the Need-Based Student Financial Assistance Fund or another financial assistance program, and an explanation of all transfers of funds including whether transfers to other financial assistance programs occurred by budget amendment or other mechanism. This report shall be submitted by December 1, 2026, 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 and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

R62I0001

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

Explanation:

This language restricts funds pending a report from MHEC providing detailed financial information on each grant, scholarship, and loan assistance repayment program administered by MHEC.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on financial details of grant, scholarships and loan assistance repayment programs

MHEC

December 1, 2026

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Notes</u>	<u>Hearing</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1.				Disagree - Agency stated sufficient action has been taken to correct errors	Adopt	
	<p><u>Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) submits a report to the budget committees on the errors related to the Guaranteed Access (GA) grant and Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship in the recent award cycle including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <u>an explanation for why students eligible for the GA grant were initially deemed ineligible;</u> (2) <u>a discussion of safeguards that will be implemented to prevent students with incomplete information from erroneously being awarded the GA grant;</u> (3) <u>a description of all internal controls in place to monitor the accurate awarding of scholarships and grants;</u> (4) <u>an explanation for the decision to deem off campus recipients of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship to be ineligible to have room and board costs covered after students had already been awarded and subsequent partial reversal; and</u> (5) <u>a discussion of MHEC’s timeline for making changes in financial assistance awards policy to ensure these decisions are made and disseminated prior to the award period.</u> <p><u>The report shall be submitted by July 15, 2026, 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</u></p>					

R62I0010

<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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any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This action restricts funds pending submission of a report on the errors made in the GA grant awarding process and alterations of guidelines for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship. Students who were eligible for the GA grant were initially deemed ineligible, and students with incomplete forms were erroneously given awards. Students residing off campus who were already awarded Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarships had some of their funding revoked after a change in guidance from MHEC.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Report on the GA grant and Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship	MHEC	July 15, 2026
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2.	Add the following language: <u>Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits a report to the budget committees pertaining to the March 2025 audit findings, including the number of:</u>	Concur in part - Requested this to be committee narrative instead of a fund restriction pending the report	Adopt
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R62I0010

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(1)					
<u>cases that are in the backlog for the verification of career-based financial aid awards with service obligations as of June 1, 2026;</u>					
(2)					
<u>accounts that were referred to the Central Collections Unit in each fiscal year from fiscal 2021 to 2026; and</u>					
(3)					
<u>positions that were moved to the Service Obligation Unit after the audit.</u>					

The report shall be submitted by August 15, 2026, 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: This action restricts funds pending the submission of a report providing information pertaining to a finding in the fiscal compliance audit released in March 2025, which involves ensuring career-based financial aid programs with service obligations are tracked and enforced properly.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Actions to address audit findings	Maryland Higher Education Commission	August 15, 2026

R62I0010

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Notes</u>	<u>Hearing</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
3. Add the following language:			No response		Adopt	

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits a report to the budget committees on the Next Generation Scholars (NGS) program, including:

- (1) the number of NGS seniors for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 academic years;
- (2) the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility requirements, and the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award; and
- (3) the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

The report shall be submitted by December 10, 2026, 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 budget committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. A similar report due December 1, 2025, for academic years

R62I0010

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

2024-2025 and 2025-2026 was requested in the 2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report but was not submitted as of February 24, 2026.

Information Request **Author** **Due Date**

Report on postsecondary outcomes for NGS senior students Maryland Higher Education Commission December 10, 2026

4. Add the following language: No response Reject

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits two reports. The first report shall submit the results of a review of the current process and timing for determining student financial assistance eligibility, including the dependency override process, for individuals in informal kinship care and examine options to make changes to the process so that eligibility is determined as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms are received. This report shall be completed in collaboration with the Financial Assistance Advisory Council and nonprofit organizations that participate in the Next Generation Scholars program. The second report shall identify communication initiatives for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program, including a targeted communication campaign to advertise these financial aid programs to current and aspiring police officers and probation agents within the State. The report shall provide information on how often the website was updated for each program; the number of high schools, colleges, police

R62I0010

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing</u> <u>Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p><u>departments, and probation offices notified about each program; frequency of communication (in-person, phone calls, e-mails, and mail) with high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices about each program; and other communication efforts to reach potentially eligible recipients. Each report shall be submitted by August 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second of the two reports submitted to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of the reports 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.</u></p>				

Explanation: This action restricts funds pending the submission of two reports, one regarding Guaranteed Access grants for individuals in informal kinship care and one pertaining to outreach efforts made to police officers and probation agents for programs available to them. Reports on both of these subjects were requested via committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* but remain unsubmitted as of February 24, 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Submission of late reports	Maryland Higher Education Commission	August 1, 2026

R62I0010

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
5. Adopt the following narrative:					
<p>Credit Requirements for Community College Students Receiving Educational Excellence Awards: The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission submit a report by November 1, 2026, that calculates the cost of reducing credit completion requirements during the second academic year for community college students to maintain eligibility for their Educational Excellence Awards grants based on the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completing 24 or more credits to maintain the full award; and • completing 18 or more but less than 24 credits to receive a prorated award. <p>The report should calculate the costs that would have occurred had the listed credit completion standards been in effect for fiscal 2022 to 2025. The report should also discuss reasons why the rate of ineligibility among community college recipients has consistently exceeded the ineligibility rate for recipients at public and private four-year institutions.</p>			<p>Concur in part - They would like the deadline to be December 15 instead of November 1</p>	<p>Adopt</p>	

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Credit completion requirements for community college students	Maryland Higher Education Commission	November 1, 2026

R62I0010

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

Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards: The committees remain interested in the impact that the 30-credit-hour requirement had on students in the 2025-2026 academic year and the 2026-2027 awarding year, specifically if students are meeting the requirement in order to receive the full amount of award, how many students had their awards prorated, and how many students lost eligibility. The report should also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report should provide summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report should identify the updated funding disbursement, by Educational Excellence Awards (EEA) award type and by total credit attainment grouping, for the students from the most recent review cycle as well as what the total funding amount was, by EEA award type, prior to those students having their award funding amounts revised.

Concur in part - The agency would like to narrow the reporting population to only students in their second year or beyond of receiving the award and replace graduation rates with other metrics

Adopt

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Impact of credit completion requirements on financial aid awards	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2026

R75T0001

State Support for Higher Education Institutions

	<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. Adopt the following narrative:						

Instructional Faculty Workload Report: The committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) continue to provide annual instructional workload reports for tenured/tenure-track faculty. By focusing on these faculty, the committees gain a sense of the teaching activities for the regular core faculty. However, there are other types of instructional faculty at institutions, such as full- and part-time nontenured/nontenure-track faculty including adjunct faculty, instructors, and lecturers. Focusing on only tenured/tenure-track faculty provides an incomplete picture of how students are taught. Therefore, the report should also include the instructional workload when all types of faculty are considered. Additional information may be included at the institution's discretion. Furthermore, the USM report should include the percent of faculty meeting or exceeding teaching standards for tenured/tenure-track faculty for the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

Adopt

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual report on faculty workload	USM MSU SMCM	December 15, 2026

R75T0001

<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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Additional First House Action

2. Add the following language:

Further provided that this appropriation for R30B22 University of Maryland, College Park for the purpose of funding the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub at the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy shall be reduced by \$350,000.

Explanation:

Chapter 679 of 2022 mandated funding of the Consumer Health Information Hub at the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy from fiscal 2022 through 2026. Though the mandate ended, funding was inadvertently included in the University of Maryland, College Park’s appropriation for this hub.

R95C00

Baltimore City Community College

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

Enrollment and the Mayor’s Scholars Program (MSP): The committees request a report on MSP that includes updated information on MSP for the 2025-2026 academic year and that identifies what additional actions are being taken to increase enrollment. Additionally, the report should provide the following information on MSP: (1) the number of applications received for all cohorts, the number of students who enrolled each semester, and the number of first-year students who enrolled in the second, third, and fourth year (where applicable); (2) the number of students who participated in the Summer Bridge program for all cohorts; (3) the number of students in all cohorts applicable who have successfully completed at least 15 credits each semester, or a total of 30 credits in their academic year; (4) the amount of financial aid provided to scholars in year one, two, three, and four by cohort, including the total amount each year and the average student award; and (5) other funding sources being used to support the program after the end of funding from Baltimore City including amounts by source.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Enrollment and MSP Data	BCCC	December 1, 2026

R99E

Maryland School for the Deaf

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

S50B01

Maryland African American Museum Corporation

	<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.	Concur with Governor's allowance.		Concur		Adopt	

T00

Department of Commerce

	<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. Reduce grant funding to the Maryland Tech Council for BioHub Maryland to the fiscal 2026 funding level of \$500,000.				Disagree - Funding will extend BioHub Maryland's exclusive licensing agreement for curricula and support core operations and outreach.	Reject	
	-\$1,500,000	GF				
2. Delete funding for the Economic Development Opportunities Program Account, commonly referred to as the Sunny Day Fund, due to the State's budget constraints.				Disagree - Eliminating FY 2027 Sunny Day funding will jeopardize one existing and one new project for which Commerce has made commitments.	Reject	
	-\$16,000,000	GF				
3. Reduce funding to the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund from \$10 million to \$5 million.				Disagree - MEDCO is in active discussions along with Commerce on projects that will utilize the additional \$10M proposed for FY 2027.	Reject	
	-\$5,000,000	GF				

T00

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
4. Reduce general funds for the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit by \$2 million, to a total program funding level of \$10 million.	-\$2,000,000	GF	Disagree - Although the utilization rate of the BIITC program has been lower than projected each year, the program remains oversubscribed at the initial application stage.	Adopt	
5. Reduce funding for the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program from \$7 million to \$3.5 million due to the State’s budget constraints and the program’s overlap with other State technology infrastructure grant programs.	-\$3,500,000	GF	Disagree - Commerce does not agree that the Build Our Future Grant Program is similar to other State programs. Additionally, the program has been extremely popular and leverages significant matching funds.	Reject	
6. Reduce general funds for the Maryland State Arts Council by \$620,240, level with the fiscal 2026 working appropriation.	-\$620,240	GF	Disagree - Stable arts funding enables arts organizations to develop long-term strategic plans and grows the state economy by creating jobs, generating local and visitor spending, and maintaining quality of life.	Modify, see below	

T00

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
First House Modification						
Reduce general funds for the Maryland State Arts Council.	-\$310,120	GF			Adopt	
7. Reduce funding for Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority management fees that were overfunded in the allowance due to a data entry error.				Concur	Adopt	
	-\$625,000	SF				
Additional First House Action						
8. Add the following language:					Adopt	
<p><u>, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Department of Commerce submits a report to the budget committees on the utilization of the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account program over the past five years, challenges in deploying the full appropriation, strategies that have been used to increase utilization and the outcome of these strategies, and recommendations for program modifications that could increase program utilization. The report shall be submitted by October 30, 2026, 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.</u></p>						

T00

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:						
	The Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account (SMWOBA) and its fund managers have been unable to utilize the program's full appropriation in recent years, leading to a significant balance in the account. The committees request that the Department of Commerce (Commerce) report on challenges in deploying the funds, what strategies have been tried to increase deployment of the funds, and recommendations for program modifications to increase program utilization.					

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on challenges in utilizing the SMWOBA and recommendations for program modifications	Commerce	October 30, 2026

T00A99

Maryland Economic Development Corporation

	<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. Nonbudgeted.			No response		Adopt	

T50T01

Maryland Technology Development Corporation

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce funding for the Maryland Innovation Initiative Institution Partnership Extension Program to the level authorized by Chapter 217 of 2025, which established the program.			Disagree - The proposed funding would support an expansion of the MII program that has been validated by previous MII pilot programs. A reduction in funding would significantly limit MII's ability to adequately support existing institutional partnerships developed through previous MII pilot programs and hamper the development of a robust innovation ecosystem in those institutions.	Reject	
	-\$750,000	GF			
2. Delete funding for a grant to the Baltimore Tech Hub Consortium, intended to support the consortium's ongoing pursuit of federal funding, due to the State's fiscal condition and the uncertain outlook for future federal funding.			Disagree - Funding supports the consortium's Regional Information Office, which improves collaboration among members and maintains sustained engagement with relevant federal agencies and program offices. Continued support will ensure the Baltimore Tech Hub remains competitive in pursuing future funding opportunities.	Reject	
	-\$500,000	GF			

T50T01

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
3. Reduce funding for the Equitech Growth Fund to the fiscal 2024 level, due to the State's fiscal condition and the fund's programmatic overlap with other State grant programs.			Disagree - Any reduction to the Equitech Growth Fund would materially limit the achievement of projected economic growth, directly limiting job creation, workforce training capacity, and infrastructure investment across the state. Equitech is unique among State programs in its focus on early-stage tech companies.	Reject	
	-\$2,000,000	GF			