



Report of the
Health and Social
Services Subcommittee
To the House Appropriations Committee

2026 SESSION

Recommendations, Reductions, and
Summary of Action Pertaining to:
Senate Bill 282

General Assembly of Maryland
House Appropriations Committee
Health and Social Services Subcommittee
2026 Session Membership Roster

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Delegate Joshua J. Stonko

Committee Staff

Joseph Gutberlet

Subcommittee Coordinator

Victoria Martinez

Support Staff

Dominic Sanelli

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**Recommended Reductions
Health and Social Services Subcommittee**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
2027 Budget Request						
Department of Aging	\$0	\$0	-\$219,373	\$0	-\$219,373	0.0
Department of Human Services (DHS) – Family Investment Administration	-377,639	0	-252,013,211	0	-252,390,850	0.0
DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs	-46,229	0	0	0	-46,229	0.0
Maryland Department of Health (MDH) – Medical Care Programs Administration	-3,000,000	0	-5,000,000	0	-8,000,000	0.0
<i>Subtotal Fiscal 2027 Regular Budget</i>	<i>-\$3,423,868</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$257,232,584</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$260,656,452</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Fiscal 2027 Total Budget	<i>-\$3,423,868</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$257,232,584</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$260,656,452</i>	<i>0.0</i>
ii. Fiscal 2026 Deficiency Budget						
DHS Family Investment Administration	\$0	-\$59,314,476	\$0	\$0	-\$59,314,476	0.0
MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration	-54,200,000	0	-167,230,827	0	-221,430,827	0.0
Total Fiscal 2026 Deficiency Budget	<i>-\$54,200,000</i>	<i>-\$59,314,476</i>	<i>-\$167,230,827</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$280,745,303</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Grand Total Budget Bill	<i>-\$57,623,868</i>	<i>-\$59,314,476</i>	<i>-\$424,463,411</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$541,401,755</i>	<i>0.0</i>

D11A0401

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

D11A04.01 Executive Direction

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Delete 1 vacant position (087750) and associated funding. This position has been vacant for more than one year.	-111,716	GF
 Total Change	 -111,716 0	 -1.00 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	7.00	6.00 7.00		-1.00 0.00
General Funds	1,156,273	1,044,557 1,156,273	-111,716 0	

Amendment No.

Strike the following language from the general fund appropriation:

~~provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of executive direction may not be expended until the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing submits a letter confirming that it has published notification of the final action on the regulations for the State sign language licensing requirements in the Maryland Register. The letter shall be submitted to the budget committees within 30 days of the publishing 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 a letter may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the letter is not submitted to the budget committees.~~

Explanation: Chapters 269 and 270 of 2023 (Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act) required the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters to establish and publish licensing requirements for sign language interpreters by July 1, 2024. While proposed regulations were submitted for public comment in June 2025, the

D11A0401

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) announced in November 2025 that the development of regulations was being paused due to concerns raised during the public comment period. This language restricts funding until ODHH submits a letter to the budget committees indicating that it has published the notice of the final action on the regulations in the Maryland Register.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming publication of the final action on regulations	ODHH	Within 30 days of the publication of regulations
		Amendment No.

Strike the following language from the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of executive direction may not be expended until the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing submits a report on the status of all positions authorized for fiscal 2027 that were vacant as of December 31, 2025, including the date filled for any positions that have been filled, and any active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees 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: As of December 31, 2025, 4 positions within the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) were vacant, leading to a vacancy rate of 57.1%. All 4 vacant positions had been vacant for more than one year. This language restricts funding until ODHH submits a report to the budget committees on the status of all positions authorized in the fiscal 2027 budget that were vacant as of December 31, 2025, and any active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions.

D11A0401

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on vacant positions	ODHH	August 15, 2026 Amendment No.

Committee Narrative

Updates on State Sign Language Interpreter Licensing Requirements: Chapters 269 and 270 of 2023 (Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act) required the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters to establish and publish licensing requirements for sign language interpreters by July 1, 2024. While proposed regulations were submitted for public comment in June 2025, the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) announced in November 2025 that the development of regulations was being paused due to concerns raised during the public comment period. The committees request that ODHH submit two reports on regulation development and implementation, discussing:

- concerns raised during the public comment period that necessitated the pause in regulation development;*
- any statutory changes recommended by the Governor's new working group;*
- progress toward establishing State sign language licensing requirements and projected timeline for publishing the requirements; and*
- updated timeline for the availability of the licensing portal for public use.*

The first report should cover the requested information as of May 31, 2026, and be submitted by July 1, 2026, and the second report should cover the requested information as of November 31, 2026, and be submitted by December 15, 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Updates on State sign language interpreter licensing requirements	ODHH	July 1, 2026 December 15, 2026

D11A0401

Committee Narrative

Report on Efforts to Fill Vacant Positions: As of December 31, 2025, the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) had four vacant positions, leading to a vacancy rate of 57.1%. All four vacant positions had been vacant for more than one year. The committees request that ODHH submit a report on the status of all December 2025 vacant positions, including the date filled for any positions that have been filled, and any active recruitment efforts to fill vacant positions.

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Report on efforts to fill vacant positions</i>	<i>ODHH</i>	<i>August 15, 2026</i>

D26A07
Department of Aging

Budget Amendment

D26A07.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funds to increase the turnover expectancy. The Maryland Department of Aging has 6 vacant positions as of December 31, 2025, after accounting for a proposed deficiency appropriation abolishing 4 vacant positions. These vacancies are higher than the 2.03 necessary vacancies to meet the budgeted turnover rate of 4.05% in the fiscal 2027 allowance.	-219,373	FF
Total Change	-219,373	0.00

	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position		50.00	50.00		0.00
General Funds		4,144,676	4,144,676	0	
Federal Funds		4,092,448	3,873,075	-219,373	

Budget Amendment

D26A07.03 Community Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$1,300,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of grants through the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities program may be used only to provide grants as follows:

D26A07

- (1) \$575,000 to the Jewish Social Service Agency for the following purposes:
 - (a) \$350,000 for the Holocaust Survivor Program; and
 - (b) \$225,000 for the Coming of Aging in Maryland Program;
- (2) \$475,000 to Jewish Community Services, Inc. for the following purposes:
 - (a) \$350,000 for the Holocaust Survivor Program; and
 - (b) \$125,000 for the Millbrook Case Management Program;
- (3) \$100,000 to Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. for the Senior Villages Program;
- (4) \$75,000 to CHANA Baltimore, Inc. for the Elder Abuse Prevention Program; and
- (5) \$75,000 to Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, Inc. for the Charles E. Smith Life Communities ElderSAFE Center.

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.

Explanation: *This language restricts funds within the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities program to be used only to distribute grants for specified recipients and uses.*

Amendment No.

Committee Narrative

Supporting Older Adults with Resources Program Implementation Plan: In accordance with Chapters 33 and 34 of 2025, the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) is undergoing a process of consolidating three major community services programs into the Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) program. The legacy programs combine \$20.1 million of general funds and provide services to almost 4,000 participants to support them to live independently. The committees request that MDOA provide a report on its final transition plan for implementing the SOAR program, including:

D26A07

- the status of consolidating administration of the legacy programs;
- the SOAR implementation timeline, noting the timing of completed tasks and target dates for any remaining consolidation tasks;
- details on how funding will be allocated to local Area Agencies on Aging;
- discussion and estimates of administrative cost savings from the consolidation;
- participant eligibility requirements to receive services;
- services available to participants in SOAR, including the discontinuation of any services provided in legacy programs; and
- impacts of the consolidation on legacy participants, including plans to transition legacy participants into new services and a description of how services differ for legacy participants in SOAR.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the implementation MDOA of the SOAR program		June 1, 2026

Committee Narrative

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) Program: Chapters 33 and 34 of 2025 consolidate Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing Services Program into the SOAR program beginning in fiscal 2027. The Maryland Department of Aging's (MDOA) annual MFR submission includes indicators reflecting goals to (1) enable older adults to remain in their homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible; (2) to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults; (3) to empower older adults to stay active and healthy; and (4) to provide mobility to Marylanders of all ages while protecting the environment. As the SOAR program will be MDOA's largest state-funded community services program, measures should be added to assess the program's performance. The committees request that MDOA create new performance measures for the SOAR program, including annual participant counts, to be included in the MFR submission with the fiscal 2028 budget.

D26A07

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR measures for the SOAR MDOA program		With submission of the fiscal 2028 budget

Committee Narrative

Report on the Condition of Senior Center Facilities: *The committees are interested in the condition of senior citizen activity center facilities across the State. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), in collaboration with local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), compile information and assessments on statewide building conditions of all senior citizen activity centers to facilitate improved local government planning. MDOA should submit a report with the following information:*

- *a list of senior citizen activity centers across the State by jurisdiction;*
- *the age and condition of the facilities, including identifying facility components that are approaching the end of their useful life (roof, plumbing, HVAC, etc.);*
- *a summary of challenges or concerns regarding facility conditions; and*
- *recommendations for improving the conditions of facilities across the State, including plans to increase awareness and use of the Senior Citizens Activities Center Grant Program for projects that improve senior centers.*

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Report on senior center facility conditions</i>	<i>MDOA AAA</i>	<i>September 1, 2026</i>

D27L00

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

D27L00.01 General Administration

Committee Narrative

Measures Implemented to Reduce Case Backlogs: The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) has faced persistent challenges in case processing that have been primarily attributed to staffing limitations, contributing to delays and a backlog of cases awaiting assignment. The committees request that MCCR submit a report outlining any measures implemented to reduce case backlogs, including:

- the status of filling vacant positions related to both the new positions in fiscal 2026 and other vacant positions and the impact of filling vacant positions on the case backlog and case assignment timeliness;
- *a discussion of how MCCR determines the classification of new positions and why positions focused on education and outreach were recruited in calendar 2025 despite MCCR’s case backlog;*
- metrics tracking case resolution outcomes, including average processing time, number of cases closed, and proportion of cases resolved within established benchmarks;
- a discussion of operational improvements, including any changes in workflow, investigator caseloads, or coordination with involved parties and any impacts these changes have had on case backlogs; and
- current average staff to caseload ratios by case type and a comparison to the staff to caseload ratios held at similar offices in other jurisdictions

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on measures implemented MCCR to reduce case backlogs		November 1, 2026

D78Y01
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

Committee Narrative

D78Y01.03 Reinsurance Program

Reinsurance and State Subsidy Program Costs and Forecasts: The committees are interested in monitoring the costs of the State Reinsurance Program and State Subsidy Program and future funding needs. The committees request that the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) submit a report that provides an updated forecast of spending and funding needs for both program, including estimated costs through calendar 2028.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reinsurance and State Subsidy program costs and forecasts	MHBE	September 30, 2026

M00A01
MDH Administration

Budget Amendment

M00A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees on staffing of the pediatric hospital overstay unit at the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (JLG RICA). The report shall include:

- (1) the number of staff working at the overstay unit at JLG RICA;
- (2) the number of filled and vacant positions at the unit as of June 1, 2026;
- (3) the cost of staffing the additional beds in fiscal 2026 to date as of June 1, 2026;
- (4) the intended use or amount reverted for any unspent funding that was restricted for this purpose in fiscal 2026;
- (5) the number of existing beds and the number of staffed beds in the unit as of June 1, 2026;
and
- (6) the department’s plan, including a timeline, to fill any vacancies in the unit.

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

Explanation: The fiscal 2026 Budget Bill restricts \$3 million in general funds to be used only to address pediatric hospital overstays. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) indicated that it would use the funding to increase staff for additional beds at JLG RICA. In fiscal 2026, MDH transferred 31.0 vacant positions from the Thomas B. Finan Hospital Center to staff the overstay unit at JLG RICA. However, as of March 1, 2026, all of these positions remain vacant. This language restricts funds pending submission of a report on the

M00A01

timeline for filling vacancies, how the beds will be staffed and made available, as well as how the restricted funding has been used to expand the facility's capacity.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on staffing at JLG RICA	MDH	July 15, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on the State's plan to improve placement times for individuals who are found not criminally responsible (NCR) or incompetent to stand trial (IST). The report shall include, as of June 30, 2026, by State facility and in aggregate:

- (1) the average number of days between court order and admission of NCR/IST patient in each month from January through June 2026;
- (2) the number of court orders received from the Judiciary between January and June 2026;
- (3) the number of people, as of June 30, 2026, awaiting placement in a forensic State hospital facility, including the number of days each person has been on the waitlist;
- (4) MDH's planned activities in calendar 2026 which will address the backlog of patients awaiting placement;
- (5) the amount of fines MDH incurred from local jurisdictions in fiscal 2026 for not meeting NCR/IST placement deadlines;
- (6) a description of factors preventing MDH from placing individuals in State hospital facilities timely; and
- (7) a description of factors preventing MDH from discharging patients from State hospital facilities to appropriate community settings.

The report shall be submitted by August 31, 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.

M00A01

Explanation: Since fiscal 2021, MDH has admitted fewer than 30% of NCR/IST patients within 10 days of a court order, and in fiscal 2025, MDH placed patients an average of 56 days following a court order. The fiscal 2027 budget includes a fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriation of \$1.5 million in general funds for fines related to exceeding the 10-day placement requirement. Between fiscal 2021 and 2022, the number of court orders that MDH received from the Judiciary increased by 30.2%. Since then, the numbers have increased annually. In fiscal 2025, MDH received 1,088 court orders, a nearly 67% increase since fiscal 2021. This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report on the State’s plan to improve placement times for NCR and IST patients.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on placement of NCR and MDH IST patients		August 31, 2026

Committee Narrative

Report on Staffing at State Hospital Facilities: As of December 31, 2025, 90% of vacant positions in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Administration programs were located at State hospital facilities (494.6 vacancies). Each of the five adult psychiatric hospital facilities in the State operate at near-full capacity and maintain a waiting list. The fiscal 2026 and 2027 budgets include significant funding for overtime costs at hospital facilities. In addition, recent concern regarding pediatric hospital overstays resulted in a funding increase of \$3 million to expand bed space at the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (JLG RICA) facility beginning in fiscal 2026. To better understand the staffing challenges at State hospital facilities and the steps MDH has taken to fill vacant positions, the committees request that the department prepare a report with data as of June 30, 2026. The report should include:

- the number of vacant and filled positions at each of the State's five adult psychiatric hospital facilities and the two youth psychiatric hospital facilities;
- the average length of employment of staff at each facility;
- the number of staff needed to avoid overtime shifts among existing employees at each facility;

M00A01

- the number of MDH staff and the number of Department of Juvenile Services staff necessary to operate the proposed facility for children at JLG RICA;
- the primary reasons employees give for leaving a State hospital facility; and
- efforts MDH has taken to improve recruitment and retention at each of the facilities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on staffing at State hospital facilities	MDH	September 1, 2026

M00B0103

MDH Office of Health Care Quality

Budget Amendment

M00B01.03 Office of Health Care Quality

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Office of Health Care Quality within the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees on the current status of the contract awarded in fiscal 2025 and continuing in fiscal 2027 for subcontractor nurse surveyors to address a complaint investigation backlog in the Long Term Care program. The report shall include the current status of the backlog and timeline for fully resolving the backlog. The report shall also include the fiscal 2026 closing fund balance and the estimated fiscal 2027 closing fund balance of the State Civil Money Penalty Fees Fund and use of the Fund for the contract, including any modifications of the contract due to lower revenue attainment than anticipated. The report shall be submitted by November 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: This action restricts funds within the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) pending the submission of a report on the status of resolving the complaint investigation backlog in the Long Term Care program with the use of a contract for nurse surveyors, including an update on the use of the State Civil Money Penalty Fees fund for the contract.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Long Term Care Program complaint investigation backlog	OHCQ	November 1, 2026

M00B0103

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) within the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees with additional details on the memorandum of understanding with Montgomery County that delegates authority to conduct nursing home surveys and complaint investigations. The report shall include the responsibilities delegated to Montgomery County, the start date and length of delegated authority, and costs associated with conducting surveys and complaint investigations, including the amounts that are State-funded and county-funded, and any federal funds that are passed through OHCQ. The report shall also include information on whether other counties have requested authority for survey activities. The 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: A provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025 authorized Montgomery County to request and requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to delegate authority for the county to conduct nursing home surveys and complaint investigations if MDH failed to comply with requirements for conducting annual surveys and completing complaint investigations in a timely manner in fiscal 2023 and 2024. This action restricts funds pending the submission of a report with details on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County that delegates nursing home survey activities, including a description of whether other counties have requested authority for survey activities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Montgomery County MOU OHCQ for survey activities		December 1, 2026

M00B0104

MDH Health Professional Boards and Commissions

Budget Amendment

M00B01.04 Health Professional Boards and Commissions

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (BOPCT) may not be expended until BOPCT, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), submits a report to the budget committees with an update on the implementation of recommendations from the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability's evaluation of BOPCT. The report shall include the status of implementing each of the following recommendations that require action from MDH and BOPCT:

- (1) MDH should consider developing and implementing a formal orientation and training program for new executive directors. Additionally, MDH should consider implementing an executive director mentorship program;
- (2) the smaller Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBC) should consider hiring a dedicated human resources liaison, shared amongst BOPCT and the other smaller HPBCs;
- (3) consider increasing the number of merit positions within BOPCT by converting contractual positions to merit positions or by transferring vacant merit positions from other HPBCs to BOPCT;
- (4) BOPCT board members should regularly review Intranet Quorum service records with the BOPCT executive director to monitor customer satisfaction and proactively address issues;
- (5) BOPCT should attempt to reduce the number of initial applications with missing components; and
- (6) BOPCT should implement one comprehensive, standardized internal tracking system for all initial applications and reengineer its process for reviewing initial applications.

M00B0104

The report shall be submitted by September 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 to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The Department of Legislative Services Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) published an evaluation of BOPCT in September 2025. OPEGA’s evaluation included various findings for the board relating to licensing, compliance, management, and staffing. Of the seven recommendations from the evaluation, six are directed toward MDH to consider and BOPCT to implement. BOPCT agreed with all recommendations. This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report on BOPCT’s progress in implementing the recommendations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
BOPCT evaluation	BOPCT	September 1, 2026
recommendation updates	MDH	

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBC) may not be expended until HPBC, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, submits a report to the budget committees on recent HPBC special fund balance transfers authorized in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Acts of 2021, 2024, and 2025, specifically how the transfers have impacted HPBC operations, the ability to improve staffing, and investments in technology. The 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 to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: In the past five years from fiscal 2022 to 2026, provisions in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021, 2024, and 2025 have transferred a total of \$13.0 million from HPBC special fund balances to other offices within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). This language restricts funds pending submission of a report on the impact of special fund balance transfers on HPBC.

M00B0104

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Impact of fund balance transfers on HPBC	HPBC MDH	December 1, 2026

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the State Board of Pharmacy may not be expended until the State Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, submits:

- (1) regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review necessary to ensure that an individual who is blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled has appropriate access to prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides, as required by Chapters 279 and 280 of 2023; 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: Chapters 279 and 280 require the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt regulations necessary to ensure that an individual who is blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled has appropriate access to prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides. This action restricts funds for administration until the State Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), submits (1) required regulations to make prescription labels accessible for visually impaired individuals and (2) a letter confirming the submission of regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review and providing information on the timing of when the regulations will be adopted and take effect.

M00B0104

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming the submission of regulations related to prescription labels	State Board of Pharmacy MDH	Within 30 days of the submission of regulations

Committee Narrative

M00B01.05 Board of Nursing

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Total Licenses and Complaint Rate of Board of Nursing (BON): The Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBC) annual MFR submission includes performance measures relating to initial licenses, renewal licenses, and complaint investigations. In addition to reporting on the timely completion rate of complaint investigations, the MFR data includes the total number of licenses and complaint rate for the various boards. However, the fiscal 2027 MFR measures did not include the total number of licenses and complaint rate for BON, despite the board completing the most complaint investigations out of all the boards. The committees request that HPBC include the total number of licenses and complaint rate for BON in the MFR submission with the fiscal 2028 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR measure for the total licenses and complaint rate for BON	HPBC	With submission of the fiscal 2028 budget

M00F03

MDH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

Budget Amendment

M00F03.04 Family Health and Chronic Disease Services

Amend the following language on the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by ~~\$730,000~~ \$1,580,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation ~~eliminating~~ reducing the funding mandate for tobacco use reduction activities.

Explanation: This action amends contingent language to increase the general fund reduction by \$850,000 to provide the proposed mandated appropriation for tobacco use reduction activities and align the language with the provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report to the budget committees on State activities related to the detection and treatment of genetic disorders and other serious health conditions, including metachromatic leukodystrophy. The report shall include:

- (1) the list of routine newborn health screenings conducted by MDH;
- (2) a description of MDH's process to review and adjust the list of routine newborn health screenings conducted by the department;
- (3) the estimated date of completion for updating Maryland's newborn screening panel to include metachromatic leukodystrophy, in alignment with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Recommended Uniform Screening Panel; and
- (4) State programs that connect families of young children with terminal illnesses to resources for treatment or clinical trials for which they are eligible.

M00F03

The report shall be submitted by October 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The committees are interested in MDH’s role in detecting serious health conditions among young children. In December 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services added metachromatic leukodystrophy and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). Per statute, MDH is required to include these disorders in its newborn screening panel within 18 months of being added to RUSP (June 2027). In addition, for some conditions, treatment options are unaffordable, and families may have difficulty accessing clinical trials. This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report on State activities related to the detection and treatment of genetic disorders and serious health conditions in children.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the detection and treatment of serious health conditions in children	MDH	October 1, 2026

M00L
MDH Behavioral Health Administration

Budget Amendment

M00L01.01 Program Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) submits a report to the budget committees on a plan to address the State’s behavioral health workforce shortage. The report shall include:

- (1) a description of workforce-related findings from BHA’s white space analysis;
- (2) a description of the feasibility of implementing each of the eight recommendations from the Maryland Health Care Commission’s October 2024 report, Investing in Maryland’s Behavioral Health Talent, that are related to the Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund, including challenges to implementation;
- (3) a description of statutory or regulatory changes needed to expand the allowable uses of the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs to include loan forgiveness for behavioral health workers;
- (4) a description of BHA’s planned activities and their cost over each of the next five fiscal years to improve recruitment and retention of behavioral health workers in the State and BHA’s prioritization of these activities;
- (5) proposed fund sources for the Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund; and
- (6) a description of challenges and barriers to funding or administering the fund.

The report shall be submitted by November 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

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Explanation: Chapters 286 and 287 of 2023 established the Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund to support the education, training, recruiting, and retaining of behavioral professionals and paraprofessionals in Maryland. The legislation also required the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to publish a behavioral health workforce study, which found that the State has 18,200 fewer behavioral health workers than needed to meet the State's need as of calendar 2024. To date, BHA has not added money to this fund, nor implemented any recommendations from MHCC's study. This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report on the BHA's plan to address the State's behavioral health workforce shortage.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on planned efforts to address BHA the behavioral health workforce shortage		November 1, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) submits a report to the budget committees on the State's transition to a new Administrative Services Organization. The report shall include, as of June 30, 2026:

- (1) the number of providers registered with Carelon;
- (2) the number of claims processed by Carelon during fiscal 2026;
- (3) the dollar value of the claims approved by Carelon during fiscal 2026;
- (4) a description of issues, challenges, or barriers faced by BHA, Carelon, or providers since January 1, 2026;
- (5) a description of how Carelon or BHA have addressed any identified challenges; and
- (6) a description of remaining data transfer needs between Optum and Carelon.

The report shall be submitted by October 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

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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: BHA transitioned to a new Administration Services Organization (ASO) on January 1, 2025. The Maryland Department of Health and the new contractor, Carelon, have provided two reports with information about the transition, challenges that have arisen, and how issues have been addressed. During the first year of the transition, issues with data transfer between the previous ASO and Carelon have occurred, leading to the incorrect categorization of some claims and minor delays in paying out claims. This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report with updates on the transition.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the ASO transition	BHA	October 1, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$100,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) MDH has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2026; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2027.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of corrective actions related OLA to the most recent fiscal compliance audit		45 days before the release of funds

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits quarterly letters confirming that it has uploaded data on reimbursements to non-Medicaid providers through the Virtual Data Unit each month through March 31, 2027. The data shall include provider reimbursement spending in M00L01.02 and M00L01.03, separated by budget program and by service type within each program. The data shall be provided beginning with data from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, submitted July 31, 2026, and every month thereafter. Funds shall be available to be released in \$125,000 increments pending receipt of each letter confirming the submission of data. The first letter shall confirm uploading of data through June 30, 2026, and be submitted by July 31, 2026. The second letter shall confirm the uploading of data for the period from July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026, and be submitted by October 31, 2026. The third letter shall confirm the uploading of data from October 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, and be submitted by January 31, 2027. The fourth letter shall confirm the uploading of data covering the period January 1, 2027 through March 31, 2027, and be submitted by April 30, 2027. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of each confirmatory letter to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of data may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if each letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The committees are interested in better understanding the spending on provider reimbursements by service type for spending outside of the Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements program. This language restricts funds pending submission of four letters confirming data submission of non-Medicaid provider reimbursements.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Submission of data on provider reimbursements	Maryland Department of Health	July 31, 2026 October 31, 2026 January 31, 2027 April 30, 2027

Committee Narrative

Report on Financing for Long-acting Injectable Medication: Long-acting injectable (LAI) medications are used to treat psychosis or as mood stabilizers in individuals living with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI). LAIs may help individuals with SPMI maintain treatment consistency and reduce hospitalization. In Maryland, LAI services are reimbursed under the hospital rate, set by the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). The committees are interested in the feasibility of financing these treatments as outpatient Medicaid services through a State Plan Amendment (SPA) or Medicaid waiver. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Medical Care Programs Administration, in conjunction with the Behavioral Health Administration and HSCRC, submit a report that includes:

- whether MDH and HSCRC have evaluated the potential for carving LAIs out of the hospital daily rate, including any impacts on operations, the rate setting processes, and federal considerations;
- the process by which MDH could establish a SPA for LAI services for Medicaid enrollees in Maryland and how it would interact with the hospital daily rate set by HSCRC;
- the projected impact of carving out LAI services on behavioral health spending through the Medicaid program and hospital finances;
- research on the impacts of early initiation of LAIs in inpatient settings on reducing readmissions or lengths of stay in emergency departments in Maryland; and
- utilization of LAIs under current practice in Maryland.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on financing for long-acting injectables	MDH HSCRC	September 1, 2026

Budget Amendment

M00L01.02 Community Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for M00L01.02 Community Services for that purpose or for transfer for provider reimbursements in M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of behavioral health investments in the Behavioral Health Administration may not be expended for that purpose and may be used only to provide funding for fees related to certification of peer recovery specialists and salary support for peer recovery specialists' supervised practice hours required to complete certification. 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.

Explanation: This action restricts funds within the Community Services program to be used only to provide funds for the first year of programs that support the certification of and internships for peer recovery specialists in the State.

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Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation is contingent on the fiscal 2028 budget submission including provider reimbursements for the uninsured and underinsured population in a separate program from the nonprovider reimbursement expenditures in the Community Services program. It is the intent of the General Assembly that beginning in fiscal 2028, provider reimbursement expenditures be budgeted in a separate program from grants, contracts, and other administrative expenses in program M00L01.02.

Explanation: Provider reimbursements for services utilized by the uninsured and underinsured are budgeted within the M00L01.02 Community Services program. This budget also includes funding for various behavioral health programs, services, and initiatives. This language states the intent of the General Assembly for Community Services program provider reimbursements to be budgeted separately from other Community Services program spending beginning in fiscal 2028. The separation will facilitate simpler tracking and analysis of provider reimbursement spending and service utilization.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Separate program for Community Services program provider reimbursements	Maryland Department of Health	With the submission of the fiscal 2028 allowance

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Community Services may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report on the timeliness of payments to local nonprofit core service agencies (CSA). The report shall include the following information:

- (1) the total number of nonprofit CSAs with which the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) held a grant agreement in each of fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026;
- (2) the number and share of nonprofit CSAs with a grant agreement in fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 for which BHA did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;

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- (3) the number of fourth quarter invoices submitted by nonprofit CSAs in each of fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- (4) the number of annual 440 reconciliations submitted by nonprofit CSAs in fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- (5) a description of the current process to track and monitor the timeliness of payments to grantees; and
- (6) the steps that BHA has taken and plans to take to ensure timely payment distribution moving forward.

The report shall be submitted 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 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: Chapter 155 of 2023 established a State policy requiring State agencies to make payments under specific grant agreements with nonprofit CSAs within 37 days of the later of either (1) the payment becoming due under the grant agreement or (2) the date of receipt of a proper invoice. Interest accrues at the rate of 9% per year on any amount for which a grant-making entity has received and failed to submit a proper invoice to the Comptroller within 30 days of its receipt. This language restricts funds pending submission by BHA of a report detailing its plan to improve the timeliness of grant distribution to comply with the State policy. This information was requested in the 2025 Joint Chairmen's Report but has not been submitted.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on timeliness of payments to local nonprofit CSAs	BHA	January 1, 2027

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Budget Amendment

M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients for that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

Budget Amendment

M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.

Explanation: This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements to that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

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Committee Narrative

Report on Reimbursable Fund Spending in Behavioral Health Medicaid: Fiscal 2026 and 2027 are the first in recent years in which reimbursable funds have been budgeted in the Behavioral Health Medicaid program (M00Q01.10). In both years, these funds are available from the Community Services program budget for behavioral health investments. These funds support the following Medicaid-eligible services: mobile crisis; crisis stabilization; and school-based behavioral health services as well as spending for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid re-entry waiver. While the monthly data submitted on service utilization and spending includes most of these services as of fiscal 2026, it is unclear how the department will report utilization and spending for the reentry waiver. The committees are interested in understanding how reimbursable funding in this program will be reported and tracked to facilitate analysis of utilization trends and estimations of funding needs. BHA should submit by August 31, 2026, a report which includes:

- description of how spending on the reentry waiver is recorded and tracked;
- anticipated spending for these four services in fiscal 2027; and
- explanation for using reimbursable funds rather than general funds for these service areas.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on reimbursable fund spending in behavioral health Medicaid	Behavioral Health Administration	August 31, 2026

Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Add the following language:

Provided that all fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriations are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted or canceled.

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Explanation: This language restricts the entire general and federal fund deficiency appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements to that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.

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MDH Developmental Disabilities Administration

Budget Amendment

M00M01.01 Program Direction

Modify the following language from the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report each ~~quarter~~month to the budget committees on spending for the Developmental Disabilities Administration Community Services program. The report shall include the following monthly and aggregate data on spending in the Long Term Services and Supports system by service delivery model both including and excluding claims for services provided in prior years:

- (1) spending by service provided;
- (2) number of participants receiving the service;
- (3) number of units provided;
- (4) cost per participant;
- (5) utilization of by services; and
- (6) annualized cost estimates for the rest of the fiscal year;
- (7) spending by subprogram;
- (8) spending by fund source; and
- (9) average expenditures per participant by primary service model, separated by age groups 0 to 17, 18 to 20, 21 to 22, 23 to 64, and 65 and older.

The report shall also include the following monthly data related to dedicated hours:

- (1) dedicated hours spending trend analysis, including authorized users, authorized units, and utilized units by month;

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- (2) the number and budgeted cost of approved dedicated hours based on the following separate categories:
- (a) behavioral or medical needs;
 - (b) retirement; and
 - (c) enhanced community integration; and
- (3) a comparison of approved dedicated hours in each of the three categories listed above from fiscal 2026 to 2027, month to month.

The first report shall be submitted by September 1, 2026, and shall include actual data for the Community Services program for ~~fiscal 2026~~ in the final quarter of fiscal 2026 and aggregate fiscal 2026 data. The second report shall be submitted by ~~December 1~~ October 1, 2026, and all other reports shall be submitted monthly thereafter. The third report shall be submitted by March 1, 2027. The fourth report shall be submitted by June 1, 2027. The funds may be released in \$250,000 increments following the submission of the ~~second-sixth~~ and ~~fourth-eleventh~~ reports. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the ~~second-sixth~~ and ~~fourth-eleventh~~ reports to review and comment. Funds restricted pending receipt of these 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.

Explanation: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has completed transitioning all providers from a prospective payment model in the legacy system to a fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement model in the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system. This transition included establishing new rates based on an FFS reimbursement model. Following the LTSS transition, actual spending in DDA's Community Services program has significantly surpassed the legislative appropriation, and community services spending continues to increase in LTSS. This language restricts funds budgeted for administration until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits ~~quarterly~~ monthly reports to the budget committees with monthly spending and utilization data, including data on dedicated hours.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on community services spending	MDH	September 1, 2026 December 1, 2026 March 1, 2027 June 1, 2027 <i>September 1, 2026, and monthly thereafter through June 1, 2027</i>

Amendment No.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees with an analysis of utilization trends in the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Community Services program. The report shall include:

- (1) a comparison of aggregate service utilization rates in the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system compared to in the legacy billing system for Residential Services, Meaningful Day Services, and Support Services, and explanation for any changes in service utilization in the LTSS system;
- (2) a comparison of person-centered plan (PCP) budget utilization rates in the LTSS system compared to in the legacy billing system and explanation for any changes in PCP budget utilization in the LTSS system;
- (3) a comparison of service utilization and PCP budget utilization rates of actual spending data for fiscal 2025 and fiscal 2026 and estimated rates for fiscal 2027;
- (4) a description of utilization review controls and systems in place that DDA uses to monitor utilization; and
- (5) an analysis of how changes in service utilization contribute to overall Community Services spending.

The report shall be submitted by September 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

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receipt of the 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: DDA has completed transitioning all providers from a prospective payment model in the legacy system to a fee-for-service reimbursement model in the LTSS system. It is unclear how utilization of services has changed from billing in the legacy system to the LTSS system. This language restricts funds pending a report on how utilization of services has changed in LTSS compared to the legacy system and how utilization of services has changed from the first full year of providers transitioned into the LTSS system in fiscal 2025 to fiscal 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on LTSS service utilization trends	Maryland Department of Health	September 15, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees that provides details on cost containment actions implemented in fiscal 2027. The report shall include the following information:

- (1) a description of all cost containment actions implemented in fiscal 2027, including the number of participants impacted by each action, timeline and status of implementation, and updated estimates of savings;
- (2) the reasonable and customary wages, including for family as staff and non-family as staff shown separately, by service prior to and following the implementation of cost containment actions impacting reasonable and customary wages and family as staff policies;
- (3) comparison of the reasonable and customary wages to the portion of the rates for the same services in the traditional services model that is attributable to wages;

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- (4) the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) rates for community service providers and coordinator of community service agencies by service prior to and following the implementation of cost containment actions;
- (5) the LTSS rates by service category as a percentage of the fully loaded brick rates determined through the rate-setting study prior to and following the implementation of cost containment actions; and
- (6) a description of the enforcement of dedicated hours policy, including any changes made to the policy and implementation.

DDA shall also provide an update on details of the cost containment action implemented in fiscal 2026 regarding State-only funded services, including:

- (1) the number of individuals receiving State-only funded services found eligible and transitioned onto a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver as of July 1, 2026;
- (2) the number of individuals receiving State-only funded services found ineligible for the DDA-operated Medicaid waiver, including the most common reasons for ineligibility or disenrollment;
- (3) actual spending on State-only funded services in fiscal 2026 and 2027 year to date; and
- (4) total estimated spending on State-only funded services for fiscal 2027.

The report shall be submitted by October 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 receipt of the 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 fiscal 2027 budget contains general fund reductions to account for the implementation of cost containment actions. This language restricts funds pending submission of a report from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) providing detailed information on how a cost containment action in fiscal 2026 regarding State-only funded services and cost containment actions in fiscal 2027 are being implemented.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on cost containment actions	MDH	October 1, 2026

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Committee Narrative

Person-Centered Plan (PCP) Review Processing Times: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has three Managing for Results performance goals relating to timeliness of PCP review and approval by Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) and DDA. In fiscal 2025, only 62% of PCPs were submitted in a timely manner by CCS. Individuals must have an approved PCP to receive services, making timely review and approval of plans important to ensure continuity of services for participants. The committees request that MDH provide a report on PCP approval timelines, including for fiscal 2026:

- the total number of PCPs reviewed and the total number of individuals who did not have an approved PCP prior to their annual renewal date;
- the range and average processing times for annual PCP reviews from the submission of a PCP by the participant to final approval of the participant's PCP;
- common reasons for delays in the annual PCP process for participants who submit a PCP prior to their annual renewal date;
- a description of DDA’s process when participants’ PCPs are not approved prior to their annual renewal data, including impacts on participants’ access to services, any instances in which a participant would experience a lapse in service delivery, or providers would not receive reimbursement; and
- a description of the reasons for 38% of CCS reviews of PCPs not meeting timeliness goals in fiscal 2025 and efforts to improve timely review by CCS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Person-Centered Plan Reviews	MDH	August 1, 2026

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Budget Amendment

M00M01.02 Community Services

Add the following language:

All appropriations provided for program M00M01.02 Community Services are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose.

Explanation: This annual language restricts funds appropriated to the Community Services program to that use only and prevents budgetary transfers.

Add the following language:

Further provided that, relating to dedicated hours, effective July 1, 2026, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) shall implement the following policy when implementing cost containment action that enforces dedicated hours policy. Dedicated hours may be accessed when the participant has an assessed medical or behavioral need and an approved behavioral support plan or nursing care plan that justifies the need, or a daytime residential support need as described below. This policy is intended to ensure that, in all other circumstances, such as community integration, appointments, and other circumstances that do not meet the assessed need criteria, shared hours are exhausted before dedicated hours are accessed. Dedicated hours may support more than one participant only when doing so meets each participant's assessed needs, and the participants are retired, transitioning between meaningful day services, recovering from a health condition, or receiving fewer than 30 hours of meaningful day services per week.

DDA will approve dedicated hours without considering the use of shared hours when:

- (1) the participant has an assessed behavioral need and an approved Behavior Support Plan documenting the need for a 1:1 or 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio necessary to support the person with specific behavioral needs; or
- (2) the participant has an assessed medical need and an approved Nursing Care Plan documenting the need for a 1:1 or 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio necessary to support the person with specific health and safety needs; or

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- (3) the participant needs daytime residential support due to retirement, transitioning from one meaningful day service to another, recovery from a serious health condition, or receiving less than 30 hours of meaningful day services, and has an approved person-centered plan that documents the assessed need for support.

MDH, DDA, or its designee shall provide mandatory, advanced training on dedicated hours to its staff (including Headquarters and regional offices), Coordinator of Community Services agencies, and a representative from each community provider of residential services. This training will include, but is not limited to, detailing DDA's federal and State approval criteria, its enforcement of federal requirements, and its utilization reviews of shared hours.

DDA shall update all policy guidance and manuals to be consistent with this policy by July 1, 2026.

Explanation: This language specifies the policy that DDA within MDH shall use to guide the enforcement of a cost containment action related to dedicated hours.

Add the following language:

Further provided that, relating to rates paid to providers, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Maryland Department of Health shall not make further reductions to rates, including the geographical differential rate paid for services in certain local jurisdictions, in fiscal 2027 beyond the authorized cost containment actions as specified in the fiscal 2027 Budget Bill. Further provided that, relating to individuals receiving services with State-only funds, DDA shall ensure that:

- (1) *individuals who were receiving State-only funded services and applied for the DDA operated Medicaid waiver and were found eligible, shall continue to receive State only funded services until they are approved to transition into the DDA-operated Medicaid waiver; and*
- (2) *individuals who have applied for the DDA-operated Medicaid waiver and were found ineligible shall continue to receive State-only funded services.*

Explanation: *This language specifies the implementation of certain cost containment actions in DDA regarding rate reductions and individuals funded with State-only funded services. This language restricts DDA from further reducing rates paid to providers, including geographical differential rates, in fiscal 2027 beyond the authorized cost containment actions as specified in the*

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fiscal 2027 Budget Bill and requires that DDA continue providing services to individuals receiving State-only funded services in certain circumstances.

Amendment No.

Add the following language:

Further provided that, relating to day-to-day administrative supports, the Developmental Disabilities Administration within the Maryland Department of Health shall implement the following:

- (1) participants in the self-directed services model may utilize up to 10 hours per month of day-to-day administrative supports;*
- (2) day to day administrative supports shall include nondirect supports that assist the individual with household management and scheduling, appointment scheduling, and money management tasks such as reviewing and paying bills and assisting with the maintenance of benefits;*
- (3) participants in the self-directed services model may hire an employee or vendor to provide day-to-day administrative supports;*
- (4) participants in the self-directed services model who are minors are not eligible for day to day administrative supports; and*
- (5) the duties of a day-to-day administrative support provider, support broker, and coordinator of community services shall not overlap for a participant in the self-directed services model and the duties that each position will be responsible for shall be specified by the participant and their team.*

Explanation: *This language specifies the implementation of day-to-day administrative supports funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration for participants in the self-directed services model.*

Amendment No.

M00Q01

MDH Medical Care Programs Administration

Budget Amendment

M00Q01.01 Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report on Community First Choice (CFC) program and Community-based Options (Community Options) waiver spending and activities of the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD). The report shall include monthly enrollment, utilization, and cost data that aligns with actual fiscal 2026 budget expenditures under the CFC program. Additionally, the report shall provide:

- (1) the number of budgeted Community Options waiver slots in fiscal 2026 and 2027;
- (2) the number of Community Options waiver slots filled in fiscal 2026;
- (3) the number of Community Options waiver applications sent to individuals on the registry each month and the results of that outreach (including the number of applications returned and processed);
- (4) an update on changes to EDD and registry operations to improve efficiency in determining home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver eligibility and taking individuals off of the registry and efforts to determine financial and medical eligibility for individuals while they remain on the registry;
- (5) an update on MDH staffing that supports the Community Options waiver and eligibility determination services for all HCBS waivers, including the number of vacant regular and contractual positions and the status of procuring additional staffing assistance;
- (6) a plan and timeline for addressing information technology system limitations, data and reporting limitations, and staffing constraints that prevent EDD from processing HCBS waiver eligibility in a timely and efficient manner;
- (7) data on HCBS waiver application and renewal denials, including the number and percentage of applications and renewals denied by reason for denial and by HCBS waiver;

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- (8) the number of individuals on the Community Options waiver registry as of June 30, 2026; and
- (9) an update on activities or efforts to implement the plan to reduce the Community Options waiver registry by 50% submitted to the General Assembly in February 2023.

The report shall be submitted by August 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: Recent efforts to expand home and community-based services have led to significant increases in CFC program expenditures, including spending under the Community Options waiver. This language restricts funds in the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing pending the submission of a report on CFC program and Community Options waiver spending and registry information, and EDD activities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CFC program and Community Options waiver spending and registry data	MDH	August 1, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that since the Maryland Department of Health has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent Medical Care Programs Administration (MCPA) fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) MCPA has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2026; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2027. General funds restricted

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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.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

If OLA reports that an agency failed to completely resolve or make adequate progress toward resolving those repeat audit findings, JAEC requests that \$250,000 in general funds is withheld from each agency's appropriation in the fiscal year following the OLA report until more satisfactory progress has been made toward resolution of those repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

Budget Amendment

M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$8,390,332 of this appropriation is contingent upon the enactment of legislation authorizing distributions beyond the first \$35,000,000 in settlement funding from the separate account in the Cigarette Restitution Fund to be used for purposes other than supplanting the General Fund appropriation at historically Black colleges and universities in fiscal 2027 only.

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Explanation: This action adds language to make a special fund appropriation of \$8,390,332 from the separate account within the Cigarette Restitution Fund contingent on the enactment of legislation expanding the authorized uses of funds distributed to the separate account in excess of the first \$35 million to include purposes other than supplanting the General Fund appropriation for the historically Black colleges and universities settlement in fiscal 2027 only.

Add the following language:

Provided that all appropriations provided for program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00Q01.07 Maryland Children's Health Program or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted or canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts funding for Medical Care Provider Reimbursements to that purpose only and prevents budgetary transfers to any program except M00Q01.07 Maryland Children's Health Program or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon the enactment of legislation reducing the Cigarette Restitution Fund funding mandate for the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission Fund ~~and using the Cigarette Restitution Fund balance to offset Medicaid general fund expenditures, and allowing the Commission to use its special fund balance to support operations.~~

Explanation: This action makes a technical correction to contingent language on a special fund appropriation to more closely align with the applicable provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act.

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Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for Medicaid provider reimbursements to account for savings from Medicaid participants with end-stage renal disease enrolling in Medicare as a result of increased outreach efforts.	-3,000,000	GF
	-5,000,000	FF
Total Change	-8,000,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Funds	4,437,850,472	4,434,850,472	-3,000,000	
Federal Funds	7,687,617,859	7,682,617,859	-5,000,000	

Committee Narrative

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) Implementation: The OBBBA was enacted on July 4, 2025, and makes substantial changes to the Medicaid program, including establishing new work requirements and requiring more frequent eligibility redeterminations for adults enrolled through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expansion, among other provisions. The committees request that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), submit two reports on OBBBA implementation activities and enrollment and case closure trends before and after implementation of new work requirements and six-month eligibility redeterminations. The reports should include:

- descriptions of information technology system updates, including year-to-date spending and estimated total costs, outreach activities to limit disenrollments, and partnerships and data sharing agreements with other agencies and organizations to check individuals for exemptions;
- a discussion of approved exemptions for work requirements and definitions of those exemptions; and

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- a status update on the number of positions added and reclassified within MDH for OBBBA implementation, including the total cost of the positions by fund type and hiring status.

Additionally, the reports should include the following fiscal 2027 year-to-date enrollment data on a monthly basis and divided by eligibility category and administrative data on a monthly basis:

- the number of eligibility renewals completed, including the number and share that were automatically renewed, with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) cases and non-MAGI cases shown separately;
- the number of new individuals enrolled month over month;
- measures of churn that reflect the number of individuals who previously received Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Program coverage and the timeframe of when they were last enrolled;
- the number of individuals disenrolled month over month, shown by reason for disenrollment, identifying procedural disenrollments and disenrollments due to overscale income, aging out, noncompliance with work requirements, 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 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and
- measures of application processing times and the total number of applications processed for MAGI cases and non-MAGI cases shown separately.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OBBBA implementation and impacts within Medicaid	MDH MHBE	December 1, 2026 June 1, 2027

Committee Narrative

***Prescription Drug Reimbursement:** Managed care organizations (MCO) under the HealthChoice program are not subject to the same reimbursement requirements as pharmacy claims paid by Maryland Medicaid on a fee-for-service (FFS) basis. Chapter 217 of 2023*

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required the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Prescription Drug Affordability Board to issue a report analyzing pharmacy claims paid by MCOs and claims reimbursed by Maryland Medicaid under FFS rates, including a comparison of the dispensing fees paid under managed care and FFS. The report provided high level summaries of total reimbursement but did not provide specific claims data or a breakdown of reimbursement components for specialty drugs. The committees request that MDH submit a report providing Medicaid's paid pharmacy claims data for calendar 2023 and 2024. The report should include claims data for both managed care and FFS shown separately and data should be provided in a downloadable electronic format through Excel or other comma-separated values file. Specifically, the report should include:

- pharmacy claims paid under FFS, noting the file date, national drug code, dispensed quantity, ingredient cost paid, and dispensing fee paid;
- for claims paid under FFS, MDH should indicate to the extent possible, whether the reimbursed provider is located in Maryland and whether drugs were dispensed by mail or in-person;
- pharmacy claims paid by MCOs (MCOs may be deidentified to preserve proprietary protections), noting the file date, national drug code, dispensed quantity, ingredient cost paid, and dispensing fee paid;
- for claims paid by an MCO, MDH should indicate to the extent possible, whether the reimbursed provider is located in Maryland and whether drugs were dispensed by mail or in-person;
- the number and dollar value of paid pharmacy claims in which MCO reimbursement exceeded the FFS reimbursement methodology for that drug by more than \$10; and
- for claims in which MCO reimbursement exceeded the FFS reimbursement methodology by more than \$10, the additional amount paid by Medicaid.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on prescription drug reimbursement	MDH	September 1, 2026

M00Q01

Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Amend the following language:

M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements - Medical Care Programs Administration

To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund Service Year 2025 claims for traditional Medicaid services.

General Fund Appropriation	62,682,133	<u>52,682,133</u>
Federal Fund Appropriation.....	231,948,798	<u>171,948,798</u>
	294,630,931	<u>224,630,931</u>

Explanation: This action reduces funding from a fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriation due to lower estimated spending on prior year Medicaid expenses, based on recent actual claims paid through January 2026.

Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Amend the following language:

M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements - Medical Care Programs Administration

To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to adjust the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to reflect enrollment, utilization, and rate projection assumptions for the traditional Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Expansion populations.

General Fund Appropriation.....	106,416,159	<u>62,216,159</u>
Special Fund Appropriation.....	-513,006	
Federal Fund Appropriation.....	675,313,430	<u>568,082,603</u>
Reimbursable Fund Appropriation.....	18,554,072	
	-799,770,655	<u>648,339,828</u>

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Explanation: This action reduces funding from a fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriation to account for recoveries from calendar 2023 managed care organization medical loss ratio results.

Budget Amendment

M00Q01.07 Maryland Children’s Health Program

Add the following language:

Provided that all appropriations provided for program M00Q01.07 Maryland Children's Health Program are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted or canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts funding for the Maryland Children’s Health Program to that purpose only and prevents budgetary transfers to any program except M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.

M00R01

MDH Health Regulatory Commissions

Budget Amendment

M00R01.02 Health Services Cost Review Commission

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), submits a report to the budget committees on efforts to stabilize the Medicare Advantage (MA) market in Maryland under the Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) model. The report shall include:

- (1) confirmation that financial incentives for MA plans in Maryland have taken effect as of January 1, 2027;
- (2) details on how differential hospital rates and any other financial incentives for MA plans have been implemented;
- (3) date and status of federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for ongoing financial incentives for MA plans in Maryland;
- (4) a list of MA plans eligible for differential hospital rates and financial incentives and the estimated amounts of incentives provided to each plan;
- (5) a discussion of how financial incentives target MA plans operating in underserved communities, particularly in areas in which coverage and availability of MA plans has decreased in recent years;
- (6) the distribution of financial incentives by local jurisdictions; and
- (7) additional efforts and recommendations for HSCRC, MDH, and Maryland hospitals to incentivize and collaborate with MA plans under the AHEAD model and to encourage MA plans to continue operating in Maryland.

The report shall be submitted by January 15, 2027, 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

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and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees. Funds will not be released if the report does not provide confirmation that financial incentives for MA plans have been implemented as of January 1, 2027.

Explanation: HSCRC, MDH, and the multi-agency regulatory working group for AHEAD model implementation have proposed financial incentives through differential hospital rates beginning in calendar 2027 for certain MA plans in Maryland to stabilize the market under the AHEAD model. This language restricts funds pending a report on financial incentives for MA plans, including details on implementation, the status of federal approval, information on how the financial incentives target MA plans operating in underserved communities, distribution of incentives across MA plans and by local jurisdiction, and additional efforts or recommendations to incentivize MA plans to continue operating in Maryland.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on incentives for MA plans under the AHEAD model	HSCRC MDH	January 15, 2027
		Amendment No.

Committee Narrative

Evaluation of Primary Care Programs and Initiatives: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) are implementing primary care and population health initiatives in coordination with the State’s Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design model. These efforts include launching the Medicaid Advanced Primary Care Program (also known as the Medicaid Path) in fiscal 2026, implementing new paths under Medicare primary care efforts, establishing the Population Health Improvement Fund, and continuing to administer the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) that was first implemented under the Total Cost of Care model. The committees request that MDH, in consultation with HSCRC, submit a report on implementation of the new initiatives, including design and initial activities of the programs, uses of any funding allocated to these initiatives, descriptions of fund sources supporting the initiatives, and estimated cost savings and provider incentives under all components of the primary care programs. The report should also include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the existing MDPCP for the entire performance period under the Total Cost of Care model. In particular, this evaluation should outline cost savings from the

M00R01

MDPCP reducing unnecessary utilization or hospitalization for patients participating in the MDPCP over the increased expenditures from provider incentives.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Evaluation and update on primary care programs and initiatives	MDH HSCRC	November 1, 2026

Committee Narrative

Temporary Staffing Contracts: The committees request that the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) submit a report by February 28, 2027, on hospital and other regulated health facility contracts with agencies that provide temporary staffing. The report should include, for each regulated facility in Maryland, the number of contracts for temporary staffing, actual expenditures for these contracts in calendar 2026, and a description of the position types most commonly staffed through these contracts.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on temporary staffing contracts	HSCRC	February 28, 2027

Budget Amendment

M00R01.03 Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$1,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation eliminating the funding mandate for the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission ~~and allowing the Commission to use existing fund balance for operations.~~

Explanation: This action makes a technical correction to contingent language on a special fund reduction to more closely align with the applicable provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act.

N00A01
DHS Administration

Budget Amendment

N00A01.01 Office of the Secretary

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$750,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration in the Office of the Secretary may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report detailing for the fiscal 2026 working appropriation as reflected during the 2026 legislative session and fiscal 2026 actual expenditures:

- (1) Assistance Payments program spending by public benefit program separately by program and fund source;
- (2) Foster Care Maintenance Payments program spending by placement type including average monthly cases, average monthly placement costs, and expenditures, along with detail on flexible fund spending by type of spending with detail for the program by fund source;
- (3) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families revenues, expenditures by program, and ending balance; and
- (4) special and federal fund sources of expenditures by program.

The actual spending detail shall reconcile to information reported to the Comptroller of Maryland or include an explanation of why the information does not reconcile. The report shall also provide explanations of General Fund reversions and special, federal, and reimbursable fund cancellations by program. In addition to the report submission, data shall be provided in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted by September 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.

N00A01

Explanation: The fiscal 2024 and 2025 closeout processes of DHS included a number of errors including reporting expenditures to the Comptroller of Maryland that did not reflect actual expenditures for certain programs in total or by fund, and for fiscal 2024 reverting general funds in error and overspending certain appropriations without reporting these expenditures. Despite a similar request for fiscal 2025 closeout data, DHS' original report submission contained incomplete, incorrect, and inconsistent information, and not all data requested in the report was submitted as of January 31, 2026. This language restricts funds in the DHS Office of the Secretary pending the submission of a report with fiscal 2026 closeout information that reconciles to information provided to the Comptroller of Maryland and provides explanations of reverted and canceled funds.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Fiscal 2026 closeout information	DHS	September 30, 2026

Strike the following language from the federal fund appropriation:

~~Provided that \$6,827,422 of this appropriation, consisting of \$991,414 in general funds; \$5,002,945 in special funds; and \$833,063 in federal funds, made for the purpose of the Constituent Services Call Center is reduced. The Department of Human Services is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs.~~

Explanation: ~~This action reduces the fiscal 2027 appropriation for the Constituent Services Call Center by \$6,827,422 to more closely align with anticipated expenditures provided by the Department of Human Services. As part of this overall reduction, this action deletes \$3,385,012 special funds from the Electric Universal Services Program ratepayer surcharge, which in combination with other appropriations exceed the statutory level of collections.~~

Amendment No.

N00A01

Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Strike the following language from the special fund appropriation:

N00A01.01 Office of the Secretary - Office of the Secretary

To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund call center services.

Special Fund Appropriation....	7,468,454	0
Special Fund Appropriation....	7,468,454	
Federal Fund Appropriation....	-711,193	

6,757,261 ~~711,193~~ 6,757,261

Explanation: ~~Reduce special funds provided in a fiscal 2026 deficiency associated with the Constituent Services Call Center to more closely align with the agency's projected need and due to the special funds supporting this deficiency appropriation, when combined with other appropriations, exceeding the statutory level of revenue. This action restores funding for a deficiency appropriation for the Constituent Services Call Center.~~

Amendment No.

Budget Amendment

N00F00.05 Maryland (MD) Benefits

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the fiscal 2027 appropriation for the Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System and Child Support Management System applications by \$5,542,089 to more closely align with anticipated ongoing operating and maintenance costs provided by the Department of Human Services.	-4,144,954	GF
	-1,397,135	FF

N00A01

Total Change			-5,542,089	0	0.00
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<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	2.00	2.00		0.00
General Funds	24,095,717	19,950,763	-4,144,954	
		24,095,717	0	
Federal Funds	6,633,157	5,236,022	-1,397,135	
		6,633,157	0	

Amendment No.

N00B
DHS Social Services Administration

Budget Amendment

N00B00.04 General Administration-State

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report to the budget committees that provides data on children and youth in out-of-home placements experiencing stays in hospitals, hotels, and other unlicensed settings for each month of the period October 2025 through September 2026. The report should include:

- (1) the number of youth in out-of-home placement served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and the average length of stay (ALOS) by month;
- (2) the number of youth in out-of-home placement served separately by medical hospitals and inpatient psychiatric hospitals and ALOS by month;
- (3) 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
- (4) the placement type after discharge separately by type of hospital, including identifying the number of youths placed out-of-state after discharge for fiscal 2026.

In addition, the report shall include, for each month of the period October 2025 through September 2026:

- (1) the number of unique and total youth in out-of-home placements placed in hotels, by jurisdiction;
- (2) the ALOS for youth in out-of-home placements placed in hotels; and
- (3) summary information on youth placed in hotels by age category.

The report shall also include for each month of the period October 2025 through September 2026:

N00B

- (1) the number of unique and total youth in out-of-home placements placed in other unlicensed settings, other than kinship care, placements supported by Semi-independent Living Arrangement subsidy payments, college, or reported as placements in hotels or hospitals;
- (2) the ALOS for youth in out-of-home placements placed in unlicensed settings; and
- (3) summary information on youth placed in unlicensed settings by age category.

The report shall be submitted by November 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: The General Assembly continues to be interested in monitoring data about children and youth experiencing stays in hospitals, hotels, and other unlicensed settings. This language withholds funding until a report with data related to stays in hospitals, hotels, and other unlicensed settings, which contains current data as of September 1, 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on stays in hospitals, hotels, DHS and other unlicensed settings		November 15, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report to the budget committees on the number of child welfare services 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, as of September 1, 2026:

- (1) intake screening;
- (2) child protective investigation;
- (3) consolidated in-home services;

N00B

- (4) interagency family preservation services;
- (5) services to families with children – intake;
- (6) foster care;
- (7) kinship care;
- (8) family foster care;
- (9) family foster homes – recruitment and new applications;
- (10) family foster homes – ongoing and licensing;
- (11) adoption;
- (12) interstate compact for the placement of children; and
- (13) caseworker supervision.

The report shall also include a discussion of 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.

The report shall also include an update on the status of work done by CWLA to develop new workload standards for child welfare staffing, the completion by DHS of its child welfare workforce analysis, and broader efforts by DHS to improve recruitment and retention of caseworkers.

The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days 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.

Explanation: The General Assembly believes that maintaining an adequate child welfare workforce is essential to improving outcomes for children entering State care. In order to maintain oversight over this issue, this language withholds funding until a report with data related to the CWLA caseload standards is submitted, which contains current data as of September 1, 2026.

N00B

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on caseload data and filled positions assigned by jurisdiction for specified caseload types	DHS	November 1, 2026

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that since the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$100,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) DHS has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2026; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2027.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

N00B

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits information on the costs associated with children and youths in out-of-home placements placed in hotels. DHS shall provide, by subprogram detail, payments and anticipated payments for youth in out-of-home placements placed in hotels paid through the Foster Care Maintenance Payments program for fiscal 2025 and 2026 actual, fiscal 2027 working, and fiscal 2028 allowance. Costs reported shall include both costs paid for the hotel and any other costs associated with the stay including one-on-one service provision. Data for the fiscal 2025 and 2026 actual expenditures shall be submitted by September 30, 2026, and fiscal 2027 and 2028 estimated costs shall be submitted with the fiscal 2028 budget. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the last report 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.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring costs associated with placing children and youth experiencing stays in hotels. DHS did not provide costs associated with placing children and youth in hotels, as requested by a committee narrative in 2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report. This language withholds funding until costs associated with hotel stays are submitted for fiscal 2025 and 2026 actual, fiscal 2027 working, and fiscal 2028 allowance.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Costs associated with children and youths in out-of-home placements placed in hotels	DHS	September 30, 2026 With submission of the fiscal 2028 allowance

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a letter confirming that it has added Child Welfare Services data to its website each month through December 31, 2026. The data shall include, by jurisdiction:

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- (1) number of child maltreatment reports for children and youth in out-of-home placements and type of response exercised (investigative and alternative);
- (2) findings for completed investigations;
- (3) indicated and unsubstantiated findings for completed investigations;
- (4) findings for completed investigations: physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; and mental injury (abuse and neglect);
- (5) unsubstantiated findings for completed investigation: physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; and mental injury (abuse and neglect);
- (6) in-home family preservation services provided by DHS: new and closed cases;
- (7) children in out-of-home placements through DHS;
- (8) out-of-home placements of children in family homes: formal kinship care; restricted foster care; regular foster care; treatment foster care – private; treatment foster care – public; and adoptive homes;
- (9) out-of-home placements of children in residential treatment centers, independent living, other placements, and trial homes;
- (10) out-of-home placement exits: reunification; adoption; guardianship; aged out; and other;
- (11) family foster homes: new homes and closed homes; and
- (12) formal Kinship Providers.

The data shall be added to the website by December 31, 2026. By January 15, 2027, DHS shall submit a letter confirming that the data for the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026, has been added to the website. Funds shall be available to be released pending receipt of the letter confirming the submission of data. 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 data may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring the Child Welfare Services data. Through calendar 2023, DHS uploaded monthly data on its website providing information by jurisdiction on reports of maltreatment, along with

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other data related to investigation outcomes and placements. DHS has not posted new data for the period beginning with calendar 2024. Although DHS has since developed a data dashboard, the dashboard does not provide the same level of information. This language withholds funding until a letter is submitted confirming the addition of the data to the DHS website.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming the posting of monthly Child Welfare Services data	DHS	January 15, 2027

Committee Narrative

Implementation of Provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): The committees are interested in continuing to receive updates on the implementation of evidence-based prevention practices and other services under provisions of the federal FFPSA and the outcomes of those programs and services for families and children served. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report including:

- a list of all evidence-based practices being implemented through fiscal 2026, including data on jurisdiction and the number of families and children served during the fiscal year;
- any new evidence-based practices being implemented during fiscal 2027;
- the status of the updated five-year Title IV-E prevention services plan;
- data on the effectiveness of implemented evidence-based practices at preventing occurrences of subsequent maltreatment and out-of-home placements from occurring as well as an evaluation of any other outcomes related to parent and child well-being;
- the current number of providers in the State that have received designation as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) to allow for federal reimbursement under the FFPSA, including if any additional providers received this designation during fiscal 2025 and if future solicitations of applications for QRTP designation are planned; and

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- the status of the approval of the State’s revised cost allocation plan, including a discussion of the current ability of DHS to seek federal reimbursement for evidence-based prevention practices.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Update on the implementation of DHS provisions of the federal FFPSA		November 1, 2026

Committee Narrative

Child Fatalities Where Abuse or Neglect Are Determined to Be a Contributing Factor: The committees are interested in receiving updates on the number of child fatalities that involved child abuse and/or neglect. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report that provides data for calendar 2025 and 2026 separately by jurisdiction. In addition, the data should be provided by age category.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on child fatalities	DHS	January 11, 2027

Budget Amendment

Add the following section:

Section 33 Medicaid State Plan Amendment

SECTION 33. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$200,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration and \$200,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Medical Care Programs Administration may not be expended until MDH and DHS submit a joint letter confirming the Medicaid State Plan Amendment has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would allow for reimbursement of clinical care services for children in DHS and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) out-of-home placements in residential child care settings. The 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

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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.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in receiving updates on the submission of the State Plan Amendment (SPA). This language withholds funds in DHS and MDH pending submission of a joint letter confirming submission of the SPA that allows for reimbursement of clinical care services for children in DHS and DJS out-of-home placements in residential child care settings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming submission of a Medicaid SPA	DHS MDH	December 1, 2026

Budget Amendment

Add the following section:

Section 36 Pediatric Hospital Overstay

SECTION 36. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration and \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration may not be expended until DHS and MDH submit a joint report confirming that the departments have established a pediatric hospital overstay coordinator within each department, as required by § 19-390 of the Health Article. The report shall confirm that the coordinators performed duties required by the article, including maintenance of data associated with pediatric hospital overstay. The report shall include the data collected for each month of the period July 2025 through October 2026. The 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring the status of pediatric overstays in hospitals. This language withholds funds in DHS and MDH pending the submission of a joint

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report confirming that the departments have performed activities as required by §19-390 of the Health Article. Among other requirements, the Article requires the pediatric hospital overstay coordinators to review policies and procedures and make recommendations for necessary changes to better serve pediatric hospital overstay patients and maintain data on pediatric hospital overstay, including length of stay, information on the responsible State agency, placement options sought by the patient, and information regarding previous hospital admissions for behavioral health diagnosis.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on pediatric hospital overstay	DHS MDH	December 1, 2026

Budget Amendment

N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments – Local Department Operations

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose. Funds not expended shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This annual language restricts general funds appropriated for foster care maintenance payments to that use only. This restriction prevents a transfer of general funds to other programs that might create or increase a deficit in spending in the Foster Care Maintenance Payments program (N00G00.01).

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Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose. Funds not expended or transferred shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts general funds appropriated for foster care maintenance payments provided through a deficiency appropriation to that use only consistent with language annually added to the appropriations for the program. This restriction prevents a transfer of general funds to other programs that might create or increase a deficit in spending in the Foster Care Maintenance Payments program (N00G00.01).

Budget Amendment

N00G00.03 Child Welfare Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to program N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments. Funds not expended or transferred shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: This annual language restricts general funds appropriated for the Child Welfare Services program to that use only or for transfer to N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments.

N00H00

DHS Child Support Administration

Budget Amendment

Strike the following language from the federal fund appropriation:

~~Provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$679,639 in federal funds for noncustodial parent employment and training contracts. The Department of Human Services is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs.~~

Explanation: ~~The fiscal 2027 allowance includes \$600,000 in funding in the Child Support Administration (CSA) and \$679,639 in the Family Investment Administration for the Noncustodial Parent Employment Program. The program has historically been budgeted in the Family Investment Administration, but the Department of Human Services indicates that a change in federal rules allows child support federal funds to be used for this purpose and that while this is a new source of funding it is not a new contract. This action reduces the federal funds in fiscal 2027 associated with noncustodial parent employment and training contracts that are budgeted in both CSA and the Family Investment Administration. This action leaves the \$600,000 budgeted within CSA.~~

Amendment No.

N00G00.06 Child Support Administration

Committee Narrative

Child Support Performance Reports: The federal government evaluates states' performance against five measures to determine federal incentive payments: paternity establishment; support order establishment; collections on current support; cases paying toward arrears; and cost effectiveness. Recent data from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Administration (CSA) shows that the agency is stagnating in each of the five areas. Considering CSA's transition of its primary data system, the Child Support Management System (CSMS), to

N00H00

make its agency's processes and tasks more efficient, the committees are interested in understanding how this system is helping CSA achieve its performance goals.

The committees request that DHS submit three reports on performance using data as of June 30, 2026; September 30, 2026; and December 31, 2026. Each report should include the following:

- a discussion of factors affecting performance in the quarter;
- the State's aggregate performance set against the five performance measures used to determine federal incentive payments;
- each jurisdiction's performance set against the five performance measures used to determine federal incentive payments;
- the number of cases in each jurisdiction in the quarter; and
- specific tasks related to each of the five performance measures that are streamlined, made more efficient, or made more complicated by the CSMS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Child support performance reports	DHS	September 15, 2026 December 15, 2026 February 28, 2027

Committee Narrative

Reconciliation of the Child Support Reinvestment Fund: The Department of Human Services (DHS) annually receives federal funding related to child support performance in certain measures. These funds are received into the Child Support Reinvestment Fund and used to support child support service activities. Over the last several years, reported Child Support Reinvestment Fund revenue has differed significantly by source, leading to differing accounts of both revenue and balances in the account. The committees request that DHS submit a report reconciling Child Support Reinvestment Fund revenue and expenditures by year from fiscal 2019 through 2026. This report should include opening and closing fund balances for each year.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report reconciling the Child Support DHS Reinvestment Fund		November 30, 2026

Budget Amendment

N00H00.08 Child Support – State

Fiscal 2026 Deficiency

Strike the following language from the special fund appropriation:

N00H00.08 Child Support-State - Child Support Administration

To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund call center services.

~~Special Fund Appropriation.... 1,858,906 0~~
~~Special Fund Appropriation.... 1,858,906~~
Federal Fund Appropriation.... -306,707

~~1,552,199 -306,707~~ 1,552,199

Explanation: ~~Reduce special funds provided in a fiscal 2026 deficiency associated with the Constituent Services Call Center to more closely align with the agency's projected need. This action restores funding for a deficiency appropriation for the Constituent Services Call Center.~~

Amendment No.

N00100
DHS Family Investment

Budget Amendment

N00G00.02 Local Family Investment Program

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the federal fund appropriation in the Family Investment Administration to reflect the decrease in the federal share of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative match beginning October 1, 2026. The fiscal 2027 budget includes \$43.12 million of general funds in the Local Family Investment Program to reflect the increase in the State share of the SNAP administrative match from 50% to 75%. However, the fiscal 2027 budget does not reflect the equivalent reduction in federal fund appropriation. This action reduces the equivalent amount of federal fund appropriation. The department is authorized to allocate the reduction among programs to reflect the areas of reduced federal fund availability.	-43,120,000	FF
Total Change	-43,120,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	1,660.50	1,660.50		0.00
Federal Funds	120,346,657	77,226,657	-43,120,000	

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Budget Amendment

N00G00.08 Assistance Payments

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Provided that all appropriations provided for program N00G00.08 Assistance Payments are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no budgetary transfer to any other program or purpose. Funds not expended shall be reverted or canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts funding for the Assistance Payments program, which supports public benefit programs administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS), to that purpose only and prevents budgetary transfers to any other programs. This language is consistent with actions on other entitlement programs and is the same language as was applied for fiscal 2026. In fiscal 2024 and 2025, DHS made errors at closeout in the Assistance Payments program, including in fiscal 2024 transferring special fund appropriation from the Assistance Payments program, which was needed to cover costs in the Assistance Payments program.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce the appropriation for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to better align with benefit levels. The fiscal 2027 allowance provides \$1.66 billion in federal funds for SNAP benefits, which is approximately \$172 million more than was spent in fiscal 2025, despite caseload declines since fiscal 2025. This action reduces the appropriation for SNAP, while leaving an appropriation that is more than \$200 million higher than forecasted levels in the event that caseload and benefit reductions are lower than anticipated.	-200,000,000	FF
Total Change	-200,000,000	0.00

N00I00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Federal Funds	1,844,730,837	1,644,730,837	-200,000,000	

Budget Amendment

Add the following section:

Section 43 Reduced Unneeded Fiscal Responsibility Funds in Fiscal 2026

Section 43. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds are reduced immediately upon passage of this budget from the fiscal 2026 appropriation in the following manner: \$59,314,476 in special funds from the Fiscal Responsibility Fund is reduced from the appropriation for program N00G00.08 Assistance Payments within the Department of Human Services that was made for the purpose of providing partial State funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits during the federal government shutdown.

Explanation:

During a State of Emergency related to the federal government shutdown, \$62 million from the Fiscal Responsibility Fund was transferred to the Department of Human Services to pay partial State-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in that month. Due to court rulings, the federal government ultimately distributed funds for a partial benefit prior to the end of the federal government shutdown, reducing the needed funds to pay a partial benefit through State funds. As a result, DHS used only \$2,685,524 of the appropriated funds. The remainder of these funds would revert back to the Fiscal Responsibility Fund at the close of the fiscal year. The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026 assumes that these funds are available to be transferred, along with other balance in the fund, to the general fund in fiscal 2026. This action reduces the appropriation by the amount of the unused appropriation.

N00100

Budget Amendment

N00100.04 Director's Office

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits quarterly reports to the budget committees on application processing times, application denial rates, and case closures for benefit programs. In particular, the report shall include:

- (1) the number of applications processed by benefit type for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP), and Public Assistance to Adults (PAA) separately by month;
- (2) the average number of days to process applications by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month;
- (3) the percentage of applications processed in 0 to 30 days, 31 to 45 days, and longer than 45 days by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month of application;
- (4) the number and percentage of applications denied by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month;
- (5) the number and percentage of applications denied by reason for denial and by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month;
- (6) the number of case closures by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month; and
- (7) the number of case closures separately by reason for case closure by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month.

The first quarterly report shall include data for February through April 2026, and each subsequent report shall provide data for the appropriate quarter. The first report shall be submitted by August 1, 2026, the second report shall be submitted by November 1, 2026, the third report shall be submitted by February 1, 2027, the fourth report shall be submitted by May 1, 2027, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the fourth report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget

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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 General Assembly remains interested in tracking the timeliness of application processing as well as the reason for denials and case closures. This language restricts funds pending submission of four quarterly reports on application processing times; application denial rates; reasons for application denials; and case closures for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA. Similar reports have been requested since fiscal 2022.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Application processing times, denial rates, and case closures	Department of Human Services	August 1, 2026 November 1, 2026 February 1, 2027 May 1, 2027

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report to the budget committees including the calculation of the Maryland Minimum Living Level annual inflationary adjustment including details of the calculation, and the resulting Temporary Cash Assistance benefit levels separately by size of the assistance unit. The report shall also include the date for which the resulting benefit changes will become effective, and if applicable, an explanation for the reason for an effective date beyond October 1, 2026. The report shall be submitted by October 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: Annually, the Department of Human Services (DHS) calculates the Maryland Minimum Living Level (MMLL) to ensure that the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefit levels comply with statutory requirements that the TCA plus the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit level equals 61.25% of the MMLL. This calculation has historically been completed to allow the benefit change to become effective October 1 for each, the date for which SNAP benefit changes are effective. In

N00I00

calendar 2024, DHS was delayed in providing information on the calculation and for each of calendar 2024 and 2025, DHS did not implement the benefit increases until January 1, of the following year. This language requires DHS to submit the calculation and resulting benefit increases by October 1, 2026, the date for which benefit increases are effective, and an explanation of the reason for an effective date after October 1, 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MMLL calculation and resulting TCA DHS benefit changes		October 1, 2026

Modify the following language from the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that ~~\$100,000~~ \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report providing information including details on prior and current penalties related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payment error rates and strategies undertaken by DHS to reduce the SNAP payment error rates. The report shall include:

- (1) the outcome of the appeal for the federal fiscal 2023 and 2024 penalties or, if still in process, the status of the appeal;
- (2) if a penalty was issued to Maryland based on the federal fiscal 2025 rate and amount if applicable; and
- (3) a detailed plan outlining strategies that the department is undertaking or plans to undertake to reduce the payment error rate below 10%, including a timeline for beginning and each key milestone for these strategies.

The report shall be submitted by September 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 to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

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Explanation: Maryland’s SNAP payment error rate has exceeded 10% in each federal fiscal 2022 through 2024. Beginning with federal fiscal 2028, States with payment error rates exceeding 6% will be required to pay a share of SNAP costs. At Maryland’s most recent error rate, the State could qualify for a delay in this cost share, but if required to pay, it will likely be at the maximum level of 15%. In addition, Maryland was assessed penalties for the payment error rate by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for federal fiscal 2023 and 2024. These penalties were under appeal in fiscal 2026. This action restricts funds pending submission of a report on strategies to reduce the payment error rate for SNAP, including the timeline for each action, and the status of current appeals or penalties related to the error rate.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
SNAP payment error rate reduction strategies	DHS	September 1, 2026

Amendment No.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education Program. This program was repealed effective the end of federal fiscal 2025 as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. States were able to continue to spend funds in federal fiscal 2026 if the state had unused appropriation from federal fiscal 2025. However, the fiscal 2027 budget does not account for the repeal of the program by appropriating funds at the same level as the fiscal 2026 budget as enacted, prior to the repeal of the program.	-377,639 -8,893,211	GF FF
 Total Change	 -9,270,850	 0.00

N00100

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	182.00	182.00		0.00
General Funds	23,924,352	23,546,713	-377,639	
Federal Funds	64,855,498	55,962,287	-8,893,211	

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

SUN Bucks Participation and Administration: The fiscal 2027 budget includes funding to support the third year of participation in the SUN Bucks program. The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the operation of the program. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report that:

- details administrative cost by object and purpose separately by budgetary program for fiscal 2026 and 2027;
- the number of regular positions and contractual full-time equivalents (FTE) supporting the program (including total and filled) and how these positions and contractual FTEs are allocated by budgetary program and jurisdiction (if allocated within specific jurisdiction position complements) in fiscal 2026 and 2027;
- the number of children receiving benefits by jurisdiction and month of issuance, the total number of unique recipients, and the dollar amount of benefits provided by jurisdiction and month of issuance for the summer 2026 program;
- the number of children receiving benefits that were directly certified and the number of children receiving benefits for which a separate application was submitted for the summer 2026 program;
- a description of outreach to households with children attending Community Eligibility Provision schools to inform the households about the availability of the program and application requirements; and
- an update on the status of the summer 2027 program including the timing of submission of the Notice of Intent to participate and Final Plan of Operations.

N00100

It is the intent of the committees that DHS begin reporting expenditures within the object and comptroller subobject related to that spending and in the budgetary program for which the expenditures occur beginning with the fiscal 2028 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
SUN Bucks participation and administration	DHS	December 15, 2026

N00I0006

DHS Office of Home Energy Programs

Budget Amendment

N00I00.06 Office of Home Energy Programs

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report with data on energy assistance application processing times by local administering agencies (LAA) and overall program denial rates. The report shall include:

- (1) the number of applications received;
- (2) the average number of days to process an application; and
- (3) the number and percentage of applications processed within 30 days, 55 days, and longer than 60 days.

The report shall discuss the primary reasons for any substantial changes in processing times that have occurred for individual LAAs between fiscal 2026 and 2027 year-to-date data. The report shall also provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reasons separately by benefit type. Data shall 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 under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2026 end-of-year actual data for denial rates shall be included in the report as well as fiscal 2027 data current through November 1, 2026. The report shall be submitted by December 31, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment from the date of receipt of the report. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: The General Assembly continues to be interested in monitoring the application processing times and denial rates for energy assistance. This language withholds funding until a report is submitted providing fiscal 2026 and 2027 year-to-date application processing times and denial rates.

N00I0006

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Application processing times and denial rates	Department of Human Services	December 31, 2026

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds for personnel expenses. The Office of Home Energy Programs administrative costs are supported with special and federal funds.	-46,229	GF
 Total Change	 -46,229	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	11.00	11.00		0.00
General Funds	46,229	0	-46,229	

Committee Narrative

Energy Assistance Participation Rates: The committees are interested in receiving data on energy assistance participation rates for vulnerable populations as well as general participation rate measures for fiscal 2026. General participation rate measures should be reported separately by program. The data should be submitted with the Managing for Results (MFR) submission during the fiscal 2028 budget process.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR data for fiscal 2026	Department of Human Services	With the fiscal 2028 submission of MFR data

S00A

Department of Housing and Community Development

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

Committee Narrative

Housing Industry Apprenticeships: The committees request that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) conduct a study on registered apprenticeships in the housing industry. DHCD should consult with the Maryland Department of Labor and other relevant stakeholders and submit a report that details:

- current registered apprenticeship programs and number of apprentices in the housing industry, including in construction, real estate, rental housing, and other related occupations;
- the potential for new apprenticeship pathways in the housing industry; and
- any barriers to creating and expanding apprenticeships in occupations in the housing industry.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on housing industry apprenticeships	DHCD	December 1, 2026

Committee Narrative

Housing Production Opportunities at Rail Mass Transit Stops: The committees request that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) conduct a comprehensive study of housing availability and potential at rail mass transit stops in each jurisdiction. DHCD should consult with the Maryland Department of Transportation and other relevant stakeholders and submit a report that details:

- the current availability of housing units at each rail transit stop;
- current zoning requirements at each rail transit stop; and

S00A

- an assessment of how many potential housing units could be added at each rail transit stop.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on housing production opportunities at rail mass transit stops	DHCD	December 1, 2026

Budget Amendment

S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$3,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) submits a report to the budget committees on the department’s progress toward reducing vacant properties in Baltimore City. The report shall include:

- (1) the status of DHCD efforts to work with Baltimore City in addressing vacant properties;
- (2) issues that may lead to delays in developing properties and blocks targeted for demolition and redevelopment, specifically including issues related to vacant properties in the Penn North neighborhood that burned down in March 2026; and
- (3) any recommendations to reduce administrative or other barriers that would enable projects to move forward more quickly.

The report shall be submitted by September 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 to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This language restricts funds pending the submission of a report on efforts to address vacant properties in Baltimore City.

S00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on vacant properties in Baltimore City	DHCD	September 1, 2026

Budget Amendment

S00A25.04 Housing and Building Energy Programs

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$183,673 contingent upon enactment of legislation expanding the allowable uses of the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to include programs and applicable initiatives related to State climate change mitigation and climate change resiliency efforts.

Explanation: This language adds specificity to contingent language on the general fund appropriation to more closely align with the applicable Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act provision.

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$191,321 of this appropriation is contingent upon enactment of legislation expanding the allowable uses of the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to include programs and applicable initiatives related to State climate change mitigation and climate change resiliency efforts.

Explanation: This language adds specificity to contingent language on the special fund appropriation to more closely align with the applicable Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act provision.

S00A

Budget Amendment

S00A29.01 Homeless Solutions

Add the following language:

Provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that community action agencies be defined as emergency providers.

Explanation: This language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that community action agencies be defined as emergency providers.