

Decision Document

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee
2026 Session**

D05E01
Board of Public Works

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Delete the \$8.0 million general fund grant for the Baltimore City Computer-Aided Dispatch System. Baltimore City should use a leasing arrangement or software-as-a-service model to pay for the System through its annual operating budget.	-\$8,000,000	GF	No response		
2. Adopt the following narrative: Maryland Zoo Operational Reporting: In continuance of the practice that began in July 2008, the committees request that the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc. (MZS) submit audited financial statements for fiscal 2026 and quarterly reports showing monthly attendance figures for the zoo for fiscal 2027 by visitor group. This should include a breakdown of the kinds of passes allocated.			No response - BPW did not respond as the Maryland Zoo is a pass-through entity.		

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audited financials	MZS	November 1, 2026
Quarterly reports showing monthly attendance	MZS	July 15, 2026 October 15, 2026 January 15, 2027 April 15, 2027

D10A01

Executive Department - Governor

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

D17B0151

Historic St. Mary's City Commission

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

D18

Governor’s Office for Children

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Delete the general fund appropriation for the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund grant due to the mandate’s expiration.	-\$2,000,000	GF	Disagree - Baltimore City has the State's largest proportion of children living in poverty and this funding provides support to existing programs and ensures new services can be offered.		
2. Reduce the general fund appropriation for the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households Grant Fund and the special fund appropriation to align with the general fund appropriation. This reduction may be allocated between the D18A01.01 Governor's Office for Children program and the D18A01.03 The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund program.	-\$15,000,000	GF	Disagree - GOC disagrees and reports that the current design of the ENOUGH grant program includes competitive awards that increase in size as communities advance through three pathways. Program eligibility expands in fiscal 2027. GOC estimates that the majority of communities currently receiving funding will be able to advance to the following pathway in the next year of the program.		
	-\$15,000,000	SF			

D18

Governor's Office for Children

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

Section XX Out-of-home Placements Report

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

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

D18

Governor's Office for Children

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
6.					

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

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

Explanation:

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

D18

Governor's Office for Children

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
Information Request	Author	Due Date			
OOHPs report	Department of Human Services	January 1, 2027			
	Department of Juvenile Services				
	GOC				
	Maryland Department of Health				
	Maryland State Department of Education				

D22

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

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

D25

Interagency Commission on School Construction

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Abolish PIN 002433 for an administrative specialist III that has been vacant since February 2025.	-\$95,504	GF	-1.0	Disagree	

D28A03

Maryland Stadium Authority

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Reduce funds for Annual Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. This is an ongoing subsidy for an economic development event that is crowding out the Major Sports and Entertainment Event Program Fund's resources. Lottery coverage ratios are close to the minimum target, which is that net lottery revenues are at least 3.0 times lottery distributions. Anticipated additional debt service required for the Racing and Community Development Financing Fund is expected to put the coverage ratio at or below the target. Reducing funds helps keep ratios above the target and reduces the potential for additional reductions to lottery distributions.					
	-\$1,750,000	SF			

D73

MD Office of the Inspector General for Education

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

D90U00

Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority

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

E20B
State Treasurer

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

F50

Department of Information Technology

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Delete general funds for expedited projects in the Information Technology Investment Fund. This action will delete general funds set aside in fiscal 2027 for expedited funds considering the delay in finalizing criteria to define which Modernization Major Information Technology Development Projects are eligible to be determined as expedited projects, including a list of proposed eligible projects as an expedited project.					
	-\$3,000,000	GF		Concur	
2. Delete general funds for the Maryland Department of Health Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Electronic Claims System Major Information Technology Development Project. This action will delete general funds in the Information Technology Investment Fund for this project. A separate recommendation authorizing a budget amendment to replace the deleted general funds with federal funds to account for expected federal fund participation of 90% of this project appears in M00Q01 – MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration.					
	-\$1,500,000	GF		Concur in part. Agency requests to reduce by 50% to \$750,000.	
3. Delete general funds for the Department of Information Technology Statewide Permitting Platform Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP) because the information technology project request for this MITDP was not submitted as required by § 3.5-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.					
	-\$500,000	GF		Disagree	

F50

Department of Information Technology

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
4. Increase turnover expectancy for 9 new positions in Program F50B04.01 to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.			Concur		
	-\$440,151	GF			
5. Increase turnover expectancy for 2 new positions in Program F50B04.05 to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.			Concur		
	-\$91,299	GF			

F50

Department of Information Technology

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

Report on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Implementation: In accordance with Chapter 496 of 2024, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) published the State's AI enablement strategy and AI study roadmap. The committees are interested in what efforts the State has taken to implement AI statewide. The committees request DoIT to submit a report on its efforts to implement AI statewide in accordance with the State's AI enablement strategy, including how DoIT prioritizes and focuses on the effective use of AI. The report should also include details on the findings of the AI study roadmap and plans to implement the findings of the various study topics.

Concur

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on AI implementation	DoIT	November 1, 2026

7. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Maryland Benefits: The Maryland Benefits, previously known as MD THINK, is a cloud-based platform that provides infrastructure, data, and application services to multiple State agencies. Maryland Benefits was transferred to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) from the Department of Human Services (DHS) beginning in fiscal 2026 to support continued integration of multiple agencies and identify efficiencies for the platform. The shared platform and Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) application were transferred to DoIT. Applications that are solely used by DHS, Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System (CJAMS) and Child Support Management System (CSMS) are to remain with DHS. However, DHS reported that operational duties for CJAMS and CSMS are still integrated with the MD Benefits shared platform and are currently with DoIT. Both DoIT and DHS estimate separating the applications by the end of fiscal 2026. Additionally, Maryland Benefits encountered significant investment and implementation challenges before it was transferred to DoIT.

Concur

F50

Department of Information Technology

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

The committees request DoIT to submit a report on the progress of the shared platform and E&E implementation by DoIT, the separation of CJAMS and CSMS applications from Maryland Benefits' shared platform, costs, additional efficiencies identified, and estimated savings. The report should also include how procurements for different components of the platform are carried out and the possibility of identifying savings either through consolidation of multiple contracts or separating a single contract into multiple contracts.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on Maryland Benefits

DoIT

December 1, 2026

8. Adopt the following narrative:

Information on Out-year Funding and Cost Estimates for Major Information Technology Development Projects (MITDP): Historically, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) have submitted out-year funding and costs estimates for each MITDP split by fiscal years and fund sources in a separate MITDP appendix with the budget books. Although the Governor's Fiscal 2027 Budget Book include a separate MITDP appendix, the appendix does not include information on the out-year funding and cost estimates split by fiscal years and fund sources. Additionally, MITDPs are primarily funded by general funds through the Information Technology Investment Fund, and the out-year funding information is required for the State's general fund projections. The committees request that DoIT, in collaboration with DBM, include the out-year funding requirement and estimated cost for each MITDP split by fiscal years and fund sources in the MITDP appendix with the Governor's Fiscal 2028 Budget Books. Disagree

F50

Department of Information Technology

Information Request	Author	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	Agency Response	Hearing Notes	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
Information on out-year funding and cost estimates for MITDPs	DoIT DBM		Due Date				
			With submission of the Governor's Fiscal 2028 Budget Books				

H00

Department of General Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1.			Concur		
<u>, provided that since the Department of General Services (DGS) 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:</u>					
1. <u>DGS has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2026; and</u>					
2. <u>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.</u>					

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 actions 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.

H00

Department of General Services

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

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

2. Add the following language:

Concur

, provided that since the Department of General Services – Office of State Procurement (OSP) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent 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. OSP 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.

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.

H00

Department of General Services

		<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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			

H00

Department of General Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
3.			Concur in part		

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of Executive Direction may not be expended until the Department of General Services, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Planning, submits a report to the budget committees that provides an assessment and review of the State's facility and real property asset inventory with recommendations for maximizing the economic efficiency and effectiveness of the State's assets. The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2026, and include a review and assessment of master planning strategies and policies for (1) facilities programming; (2) determinations concerning purchase versus lease versus construction for office space for State agencies, including the establishment of the criteria and best practice for the development of cost-benefit analysis; and (3) an assessment of the utilization of State-owned and leased space. The budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment after the date of submission 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 revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation:

The budget committees are interested in receiving a report that provides an assessment and review of the State's facility and real property asset inventory with recommendations for maximizing the economic efficiency and effectiveness of the State's assets. This language restricts funds pending a report that provides an assessment of the State's asset maximization strategies.

H00

Department of General Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
Information Request	Author	Due Date			
Report on maximization of State assets	Department of General Services Department of Budget and Management	November 1, 2026			
4.	Adopt the following narrative:		Concur		
<p>Status Report on State Center Complex Agency Relocations and Funding: The relocation of State agencies from the State Center complex to vacant office space within Baltimore City’s Central Business District started in fiscal 2022. A total of \$80 million is appropriated in the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA) to cover moving expenses, rent, and parking for the first year at new locations; new furniture; cubicles; new information technology (IT) equipment; and relocating existing IT equipment. As of January 2026, \$41.1 million of the DPA funds appropriated for State Center agency relocation have been expended. In anticipation of the State Center agency relocation being completed by the first quarter of calendar 2027, the committees request that DGS submit two reports on the status of the State Center agency relocations and funding, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the status of moves and new site locations for each agency moving out of the State Center complex in Baltimore City;• the uses and timing of State Center funds appropriated into the DPA to support State agency moves and demolition; and• any additional expenditures not reimbursed by the DPA.					

H00

Department of General Services

Amount
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Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Status of State Center agency relocation, funding, and expenditures

Department of General Services

October 1, 2026
April 1, 2027

5. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

Report on the Use of Strategic Energy Investment Funds (SEIF): A provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026 authorizes the Governor to use compliance fees deposited into the SEIF for grants or loans to support the creation of new tier 1 renewable energy sources in the State for fiscal 2027 through 2031. The fiscal 2027 allowance for the Department of General Services (DGS) includes \$20 million in special funds as contingent appropriation for the Office of Design, Construction, and Energy. According to DGS, this contingent appropriation will be utilized to subsidize solar installations at State-owned facilities located in underserved and overburdened communities and use the available funds to implement Energy Performance Contracts to decarbonize State facilities that currently burn natural gas and fuel oil. The committees request DGS to submit a report that identifies the projects supported through the initiative, including the state of project completeness, funds utilized for each project, and the estimated energy savings associated with each project.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on the utilization of the SEIF

DGS

June 1, 2027

H00

Department of General Services

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

Concur

Report on the Critical Maintenance Backlog Projects: As of January 2026, there are 246 projects in the critical maintenance backlog, which is an increase of 51 projects compared to 195 projects reported in January 2025. The committees request the Department of General Services (DGS) to submit a report on the critical maintenance backlog projects, including project title, project priority, agency currently occupying the facility, and total project cost.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the critical maintenance backlog projects	DGS	December 15, 2026

7. Add the following language:

Disagree - The two projects do not meet the 15-year useful life requirement for the Facilities Renewal Fund.

H00C01.01 Office of Facilities Management - Office of Facilities Management

To become available immediately after passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund DGS critical maintenance projects.

General Fund Appropriation.... ~~5,000,000~~
2,571,818

Explanation: Reduce fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriation for critical maintenance projects to fund new facility maintenance at 1100 North Eutaw Street and renovation expenses at the William Donald Shaefer Building through the Facilities Renewal Fund. This

H00

Department of General Services

**Amount
Change**

**Position
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**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

reduction aligns the maintenance and renovation expenses with the appropriate capital program.

P00

Maryland Department of Labor

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

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

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

R00A01

MSDE Headquarters

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

(7) from January 2025 onward, a list of reimbursements owed to 21st Century Community Learning Centers that exceeded the 60-day required window, as well as the agency's justification for delays and the steps in place to ensure timely reimbursements.

The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than December 1, 2026. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation:

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on hiring, licensing, and financial management oversight

MSDE

December 1, 2026

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

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

Report on Accounting Practices: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a closeout report by October 1, 2026. This report should include:

- an explanation for encumbrances and reversions for all general, special, federal, and reimbursable funds for any amount that does not equal zero; and
- expenditures and closeout balances by program for fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026.

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

3. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

- grant expenditures by school and program for State-mandated funds allocated to the Maryland School for the Blind, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and the School for Educational Evolution and Development;

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grant procedures, allocations, and expenditures by program for all discretionary allocations; • expenditures by MSDE department and object for administrative costs; and • unexpended funds by program, reasons that funds were not allocated or expended, anticipated expenditures of those funds by program for future years, and funds that may have been canceled. 				

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on SEA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds	MSDE	January 1, 2027

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

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

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

- a summary of progress on Maryland Leads objectives to date;
- LEA implementation plans by Maryland Leads subprogram;
- expenditures by LEA and subprogram for fiscal 2025 and 2026, including expenditures on personnel;
- standardized assessment measures, outcome measures, and progress, by LEA and program, on the framework implemented by MSDE to remediate student learning loss;
- documentation of improvements in literacy and mathematics proficiency, by LEA, grade, and subprogram, as the result of Maryland Leads initiatives; and
- documentation of how MSDE shares Maryland Leads information with the public, either on the MSDE website, LEA websites, or by other means.

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

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
5.			Concur		
<p>Report on Science of Reading (SoR) and State Literacy Policy: In January 2024, the State Board of Education (SBOE) passed Resolution 24-01 adopting SoR as Maryland’s official approach to literacy instruction and required local education agencies (LEA) to align their literacy instruction to SoR starting in the 2024-2025 school year. As part of this resolution, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was tasked with drafting a comprehensive literacy policy for prekindergarten through grade 3 that aligned with SoR and MSDE’s strategic plan. MSDE also received a total of \$47.2 million from federal and nonprofit grants to implement initiatives to improve early literacy proficiency and SoR professional development. The committees request that MSDE and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submit a report by October 1, 2026, on SoR and State literacy policy. The report should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of the final version of the State literacy policy adopted by SBOE; • expenditures on SoR by LEA including allocations through State allocations, Maryland Leads federal stimulus funds, and other federal and nonprofit grants; • a summary of materials related to readiness for promotion policies, implementation, and LEA reporting; • a summary of the key objectives in LEA literacy plans submitted to AIB in calendar 2024 and reported progress on these objectives submitted in LEA annual reports due September 2026; • progress on teacher training, preparation, and support for the State literacy policy and SoR instruction; • status of the student support model for student reading improvement plans; and 					

R00A01
MSDE Headquarters

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

- an updated timeline for completion of the adolescent literacy plan for grades 4 through 12.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on SoR and State literacy policy	AIB MSDE	October 1, 2026

6. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

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

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

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Delete the appropriation for a grant to the Yleana Leadership Foundation, which is no longer in operation.	-\$70,000	GF		Concur	
2. Reduce Adult High School Pilot Program general funds to the level of actual expenditures. In fiscal 2025, the program only had two eligible applicants.	-\$750,000	GF		Disagree	
3. Reduce Student Field Trip Fund general funds to the level of actual expenditures. Local education agencies requested reimbursement for \$376,716 in fiscal 2025.	-\$100,000	GF		Disagree - "The Student Field Trip program was first funded in fiscal 2025. While slow to get off the ground, the program has obligated or spent most of the fiscal 2026 appropriation."	
4. Reduce Leading Men Fellowship general funds to the level appropriated in the three prior fiscal years.	-\$100,000	GF		Disagree	
5. Reduce general funds for the Healthy Families Initiative to align the appropriation with actual expenditures. In fiscal 2025, the program expended \$3,151,540.	-\$1,000,000	GF		Disagree	
6. Add the following language:				No response - "MSDE will follow the guidance of the General Assembly."	

R00A02

MSDE Aid to Education

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

. provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of education State aid for the Montgomery County Public Schools in the Aid to Education budget may not be expended until the local education agency submits a report to the budget committees containing information regarding COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures. The report shall include:

(1) the county board’s use of federal funding to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education; and

(2) State funding received to implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Program, including a description of the amount of funding spent on student instruction.

Additionally, as part of this submission, Montgomery County should review previous reports for this purpose and document corrections.

The report shall be submitted by July 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the reports to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of reports may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation:

In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, local education agencies (LEA) received a total of \$256.6 million as authorized in the RELIEF Act (Chapter 39 of 2021) and allocated in the fiscal 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 357 of 2021) for tutoring, behavioral health, summer school, school reopening, and transitional supplemental instruction. Because LEAs reported still carrying COVID-19 federal stimulus fund balances in calendar 2024, committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen's Report* requested LEAs submit a final

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response **Hearing**
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

closeout report on expenditures. Montgomery County was the only LEA to not submit the requested information. This language restricts a portion of the aid to Montgomery County Public Schools pending submission of the overdue report.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on Montgomery County's Covid-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Expenditures

Montgomery County Public Schools

July 1, 2026

7. Add the following language:

Concur

, provided that \$9,261,250 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for the Academic Excellence Fund, R00A02.60, may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to program R00A01.03 Office of Teaching and Learning to be used only for administrative expenses for the Academic Excellence Fund. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation:

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

R00A02

MSDE Aid to Education

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

No response - "MSDE will follow the guidance of the General Assembly."

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

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

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
9.					

Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

- a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;
- details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2026-2027 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;
- details on MCAP administration in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;
- anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years;
- expenditures in fiscal 2026 and 2027, and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2028, for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor;
- a discussion of reasons for increased costs relative to budgeted expenses for MCAP assessments and how MSDE is working to improve its forecasting of these costs beginning with the fiscal 2028 budget submission;
- information pertaining to any formal review of MCAP assessments and standards in calendar 2027 and 2028 by MSDE, by curriculum and

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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assessment, including any anticipated changes to MCAP assessments as a result of that review and the projected costs of those changes; and

- alignment of MCAP goals and outcomes with Blueprint for Maryland’s Future outcome measures.

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

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
10.	Adopt the following narrative:		Concur		
	<p>Report on Enrollment and Counts for Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Programs: The committees request a report by October 1, 2026, on Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students; the count of national board certification-eligible (NBC) teachers in the career ladder program; and student counts for the college and career readiness (CCR) program.</p> <p>For FRPM student enrollment, this report should include data by local education agency (LEA) and school for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.</p> <p>For NBC teachers counts, the report should include the following data by LEA and school-type (either low-performing and non-low-performing) if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • count of teachers eligible for a fiscal 2026 award and their year of NBC attainment; • count of teachers who attempted NBC but did not attain it in either school year 2024-2025 or 2025-2026; • count of teachers attempting NBC in school year 2026-2027; and • steps taken by MSDE and LEAs to encourage NBC teachers to move to low-performing schools. <p>For CCR student counts, this report and data should include projected CCR counts and funding from fiscal 2028 through 2031 based on expanded CCR standard.</p>				

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on enrollment and counts for Blueprint for Maryland's Future programs	MSDE	October 1, 2026

11. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

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

R00A02
MSDE Aid to Education

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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- projected costs for Autism Waiver services through fiscal 2032 by year based on the timeline for increasing utilized slots.

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

12. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

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

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1.			Concur		
<p>Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:</p> <p><u>Further provided that \$569,800 of this appropriation shall be used only to provide an additional award for each student with special needs that is at least equal in amount to the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program scholarship award that a student is awarded in accordance with paragraph (6) above.</u></p> <p><u>Further provided that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall submit a report to the budget committees by January 15, 2027, that includes the following:</u></p> <p><u>(1) the number of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u></p> <p><u>(2) the amount of the BOOST Program scholarships received;</u></p> <p><u>(3) the number of certified and noncertified teachers in core subject areas for each nonpublic school participating in the BOOST Program;</u></p> <p><u>(4) the assessments being administered by nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program and the results of these assessments. MSDE shall report the assessment results reported by nonpublic schools to the budget committees in an aggregate manner that does not violate student data privacy;</u></p> <p><u>(5) in the aggregate, for each BOOST Program scholarship awarded (a) the nonpublic school and grade level attended by the student; (b) the school attended in the 2025-2026 school year by the student; and (c) if the student attended the same nonpublic school in the 2025-2026 school year, whether, what type, and how much nonpublic scholarship aid the student received in the 2025-2026 school year and will receive in the 2026-2027 school year;</u></p> <p><u>(6) the average household income of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u></p> <p><u>(7) the racial breakdown of students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;</u></p>					

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

(8) the number of students designated as English language learners receiving BOOST Program scholarships;

(9) the number of special education students receiving BOOST Program scholarships;

(10) the county in which students receiving BOOST Program scholarships reside;

(11) the number of students who were offered BOOST Program scholarships but declined them as well as their reasons for declining the scholarships and the breakdown of students attending public and nonpublic schools for students who declined scholarships;

(12) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year who are attending public school for the 2026-2027 school year as well as their reasons for returning to public schools; and

(13) the number of students who received BOOST Program scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year who withdrew or were expelled from the nonpublic schools they were attending and the reasons for which they withdrew or were expelled; the schools they withdrew or were expelled from; and the length of time students receiving BOOST Program scholarships were enrolled at a nonpublic school before withdrawing or being expelled.

Explanation:

This language requires MSDE to report by January 15, 2027, on the distribution of the BOOST scholarships; information on the students receiving BOOST scholarships; teacher certifications for nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST Program; and assessments being administered in nonpublic schools participating in the BOOST

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

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

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

2. , provided that this appropriation shall be for a Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program that provides scholarships for students who are eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall administer the grant program in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (1) To be eligible to participate in the BOOST Program, a nonpublic school must:
 - (a) have participated in Program R00A03.04 Aid to Non–Public Schools Program for textbooks and computer hardware and software administered by MSDE during the ~~2024–2025~~ 2025–2026 school year;

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
(b)					
(c)					
(i)					
(ii)					
(d)					

R00A03

MSDE Funding for Educational Organizations

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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Explanation:

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

R00A99

MSDE Early Childhood Development

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Quarterly Reports: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has implemented a series of significant changes under the CCS program. These changes, along with increasing program enrollment, have contributed to higher costs and shortfalls in fiscal 2023 through 2026. In response to these financial pressures, the department has implemented an enrollment freeze as a cost-saving measure to control program expenditures and align them with available funding. The committees request that MSDE submit quarterly reports with the following information:

Concur in part - MSDE requests a modification to the reporting requirements. Currently, the MSDE provides monthly reports as required in §9.5-112 of the Education Article. MSDE proposes eliminating the monthly report in the month the quarterly reports are submitted, the 15th of September, December, March and June.

- monthly CCS expenditures by fund;
- fiscal 2027 year-to-date spending and annualized cost estimates, noting the adequacy of remaining State and federal fund sources;
- the number of scholarships awarded by income eligibility category by month, total expenditures for those scholarships, and average cost per child;
- updates on the CCS waiting list including which income categories are impacted, how many children and families have applied for CCS benefits and been added to the waiting list by county and family income levels;
- information on outreach efforts to families on the waiting list, including how families are notified of their status, any actions required to maintain eligibility, and strategies used to ensure families remain informed during the enrollment freeze;
- the number of children and families removed from the waiting list and subsequently enrolled in the program, disaggregated by county and family income level, including the average length of time on the waiting list prior to enrollment; and

R00A99

MSDE Early Childhood Development

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

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

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

Information Request Author

Due Date

CCS quarterly expenditure reports MSDE

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

R12

Accountability and Implementation Board

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1.			Concur		
<p>Status Report on Blueprint Implementation: The committees request that the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submit a report by September 1, 2026, on agency actions to implement Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint). This report shall include a timeline and detailed information on the progress in completing and/or implementing the following programs, reports, and measures:</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• calendar 2026 and 2027 local education agency (LEA) Blueprint implementation plans and current status relative to minimum school funding requirements;• calendar 2025 and 2026 State agency Blueprint implementation plans;• collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, and the teacher preparation workgroup to revise teacher preparation program requirements;• targeted training on Blueprint and any changes to training and/or funding for the 2026-2027 school year;• measures taken for any LEAs that did not meet the July 1, 2026 deadline to increase minimum salaries to \$60,000;• progress on the independent evaluation of Blueprint implementation and outcomes;• LEA and Career and Technology Education Committee technical assistance Phase I and II grants, including use of funds; roles and responsibilities of					

R12

Accountability and Implementation Board

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
<p>strategic facilitators; categorized expenditures by LEA; and AIB collaboration, training, and accountability measures for grantees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA career ladder implementation plans; • LEA career counseling programs for middle and high school students and accompanying fiscal reports; • monthly Blueprint financial reporting on minimum funding requirements; and • progress to determine Blueprint final outcome measures, baseline data, and targets for early childhood education; college and career readiness; career ladder; student support personnel; or any other outcome measures under development. 				
Information Request	Author	Due Date		
Status report on Blueprint implementation	AIB	September 1, 2026		

R13M00
Morgan State University

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

R14D00

St. Mary's College of Maryland

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

R15P00

Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission

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

R30B23

Bowie State University

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur

R30B27
Coppin State University

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

R30B28

University of Baltimore

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

R30B29
Salisbury University

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

R30B30

University of Maryland Global Campus

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

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

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

2. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

- the timeline for hiring, including the date hiring began;
- the number of vacant IT positions, including employee class title;
- the status of contracts AccelerEd used for its operations, including if these contracts will continue after reintegration;

R30B30

University of Maryland Global Campus

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

- the status of revenue-generating contracts AccelerEd had, including if these contracts will continue after reintegration;
- any recoveries related to the original seed investment in AccelerEd and UMGC Ventures and an explanation for why, if some or all funds were not recovered;
- a complete list of UMGC Ventures' assets and any assets that have been sold since UMGC Ventures began operations, including the price and date of the sale; and
- the status of transferring UMGC Ventures' ownership in HelioCampus to UMGC.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on Ventures and
AccelerEd's Reintegration

UMGC

December 1, 2026

R30B31

University of Maryland Baltimore County

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

R30B34

UM Center for Environmental Science

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

R30B36

University System of Maryland Office

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

R62I0001

Maryland Higher Education Commission

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

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1.					
Add the following language:			Disagree- agency stated sufficient action has been taken to correct findings		
<u>, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) submits a report to the budget committees on the errors related to the Guaranteed Access (GA) grant and Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship in the recent award cycle including:</u>					
<u>(1) an explanation for why students eligible for the GA grant were initially deemed ineligible;</u>					
<u>(2) a discussion of safeguards that will be implemented to prevent students with incomplete information from erroneously being awarded the GA grant;</u>					
<u>(3) a description of all internal controls in place to monitor the accurate awarding of scholarships and grants;</u>					
<u>(4) an explanation for the decision to deem off campus recipients of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship to be ineligible to have room and board costs covered after students had already been awarded and subsequent partial reversal; and</u>					
<u>(5) a discussion of MHEC’s timeline for making changes in financial assistance awards policy to ensure these decisions are made and disseminated prior to the award period.</u>					
<u>The report shall be submitted by July 15, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.</u>					

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the GA grant and Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship	MHEC	July 15, 2026

2. Add the following language:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits a report to the budget committees pertaining to the March 2025 audit findings, including the number of:

(1) cases that are in the backlog for the verification of career-based financial aid awards with service obligations as of June 1, 2026;

(2) accounts that were referred to the Central Collections Unit in each fiscal year from fiscal 2021 to 2026; and

(3) positions that were moved to the Service Obligation Unit after the audit.

Concur in part- requested this to be committee narrative instead of a fund restriction pending the report

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

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The report shall be submitted by August 15, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation:

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Actions to address audit findings

Maryland Higher Education Commission

August 15, 2026

3. Add the following language:

No response

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

(1) the number of NGS seniors for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 academic years;

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MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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(2) the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility requirements, and the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award; and

(3) the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

The report shall be submitted by December 10, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation:

The budget committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. A similar report due December 1, 2025, for academic years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 was requested in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* but was not submitted as of February 24, 2026.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on postsecondary outcomes for NGS senior students

Maryland Higher Education Commission

December 10, 2026

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

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

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits two reports. The first report shall submit the results of a review of the current process and timing for determining student financial assistance eligibility, including the dependency override process, for individuals in informal kinship care and examine options to make changes to the process so that eligibility is determined as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms are received. This report shall be completed in collaboration with the Financial Assistance Advisory Council and nonprofit organizations that participate in the Next Generation Scholars program. The second report shall identify communication initiatives for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program, including a targeted communication campaign to advertise these financial aid programs to current and aspiring police officers and probation agents within the State. The report shall provide information on how often the website was updated for each program; the number of high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices notified about each program; frequency of communication (in-person, phone calls, e-mails, and mail) with high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices about each program; and other communication efforts to reach potentially eligible recipients. Each report shall be submitted by August 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second of the two reports submitted to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of the reports may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the reports are not submitted to the budget committees.

R62I0010

MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

**Agency Response Hearing
Notes**

**Senate
Decision**

**House
Decision**

Explanation:

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Submission of late reports

Maryland Higher Education Commission August 1, 2026

5. Adopt the following narrative:

Credit Requirements for Community College Students Receiving Educational Excellence Awards: The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission submit a report by November 1, 2026, that calculates the cost of reducing credit completion requirements during the second academic year for community college students to maintain eligibility for their Educational Excellence Awards grants based on the following standards:

Concur in part- agency would like the deadline to be December 15 instead of November 1

- completing 24 or more credits to maintain the full award; and
- completing 18 or more but less than 24 credits to receive a prorated award.

The report should calculate the costs that would have occurred had the listed credit completion standards been in effect for fiscal 2022 to 2025. The report should also

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MHEC – Student Financial Assistance

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u> <u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
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discuss reasons why the rate of ineligibility among community college recipients has consistently exceeded the ineligibility rate for recipients at public and private four-year institutions.

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

6. Adopt the following narrative: No response

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

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

R75T0001

State Support for Higher Education Institutions

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

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

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

R95C00

Baltimore City Community College

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing
Notes

Senate
Decision

House
Decision

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Enrollment and MSP Data

BCCC

December 1, 2026

R99E

Maryland School for the Deaf

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

S50B01

Maryland African American Museum Corporation

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

T00

Department of Commerce

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Reduce grant funding to the Maryland Tech Council for BioHub Maryland to the fiscal 2026 funding level of \$500,000.	-				
	\$-1,500,000	GF	Disagree - Funding will extend BioHub Maryland's exclusive licensing agreement for curricula and support core operations and outreach.		
2. Delete funding for the Economic Development Opportunities Program Account, commonly referred to as the Sunny Day Fund, due to the State's budget constraints.	-				
	\$-16,000,000	GF	Disagree - Eliminating FY 2027 Sunny Day funding will jeopardize one existing and one new project for which Commerce has made commitments.		
3. Reduce funding to the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund from \$10 million to \$5 million.	-				
	\$-5,000,000	GF	Disagree - MEDCO is in active discussions along with Commerce on projects that will utilize the additional \$10M proposed for FY 2027.		
4. Reduce general funds for the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit by \$2 million, to a total program funding level of \$10 million.	-				
	\$-2,000,000	GF	Disagree - Although the utilization rate of the BIITC program has been lower than projected each year, the program remains oversubscribed at the initial application stage.		

T00
Department of Commerce

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
5. Reduce funding for the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program from \$7 million to \$3.5 million due to the State's budget constraints and the program's overlap with other State technology infrastructure grant programs.	-\$3,500,000	GF	Disagree - Commerce does not agree that the Build Our Future Grant Program is similar to other State programs. Additionally, the program has been extremely popular and leverages significant matching funds.		
6. Reduce general funds for the Maryland State Arts Council by \$620,240, level with the fiscal 2026 working appropriation.	-\$620,240	GF	Disagree - Stable arts funding enables arts organizations to develop long-term strategic plans and grows the state economy by creating jobs, generating local and visitor spending, and maintaining quality of life.		
7. Reduce funding for Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority management fees that were overfunded in the allowance due to a data entry error.	-\$625,000	SF	Concur		

T00A99

Maryland Economic Development Corporation

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decision</u>	<u>House Decision</u>
1. Nonbudgeted.			No response		

T50T01

Maryland Technology Development Corporation

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

T50T01

Maryland Technology Development Corporation

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