
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee**

Additional Pages

March 13, 2026

M00A01
Administration
Maryland Department of Health

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 (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.

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 IST patients	MDH	August 31, 2026

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

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 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 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	November 1, 2026

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

M00R01.02 Health Services Cost Review Commission

Adopt the following 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

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

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

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A20.01 Office of the Secretary

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
- 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

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

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.

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

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

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.