

Decision Document

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
2026 Session**

D11A0401

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Delete 1 vacant position (087750) and associated funding. This position has been vacant for more than one year.		-1.0	Disagree - Agency considers all positions critical and plans to fill by the end of fiscal 2026.		
	-\$111,716	GF			
2. Adopt the following narrative:			Concur		
Updates on State Sign Language Interpreter Licensing Requirements: Chapters 269 and 270 of 2023 (Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act) required the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters to establish and publish licensing requirements for sign language interpreters by July 1, 2024. While proposed regulations were submitted for public comment in June 2025, the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) announced in November 2025 that the development of regulations was being paused due to concerns raised during the public comment period. The committees request that ODHH submit two reports on regulation development and implementation, discussing:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• concerns raised during the public comment period that necessitated the pause in regulation development;• any statutory changes recommended by the Governor's new working group;• progress toward establishing State sign language licensing requirements and projected timeline for publishing the requirements; and• updated timeline for the availability of the licensing portal for public use.					

D11A0401

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Updates on State sign
language interpreter licensing
requirements

ODHH

July 1, 2026
December 15, 2026

D12A02

Department of Disabilities

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

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.

Concur

D15A05

Executive Dept – Boards, Commissions and Offices

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

D16A06

Secretary of State

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

Concur

D26A07

Department of Aging

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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1. Reduce funds to increase the turnover expectancy to 8.0%. The Maryland Department of Aging has 6 vacant positions as of December 31, 2025, after accounting for a proposed deficiency appropriation abolishing 4 vacant positions. These vacancies are higher than the 2.03 necessary vacancies to meet the budgeted turnover rate of 4.05% in the fiscal 2027 allowance.

Concur in part - MDOA concurs to reduce the federal funds but does not support the reduction in general funds as it may lead to challenges in hiring and staffing.

-\$36,207 GF
-\$219,373 FF

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

- the status of consolidating administration of the legacy programs;
- the SOAR implementation timeline, noting the timing of completed tasks and target dates for any remaining consolidation tasks;

D26A07

Department of Aging

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on the implementation MDOA of the SOAR program

June 1, 2026

3. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) Program: Chapters 33 and 34 of 2025 consolidate Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing Services Program into the SOAR program beginning in fiscal 2027. The Maryland Department of Aging's (MDOA) annual MFR submission includes indicators reflecting goals to (1) enable older adults to remain in their homes

D26A07

Department of Aging

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with a high quality of life for as long as possible; (2) to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults; (3) to empower older adults to stay active and healthy; and (4) to provide mobility to Marylanders of all ages while protecting the environment. As the SOAR program will be MDOA's largest state-funded community services program, measures should be added to assess the program's performance. The committees request that MDOA create new performance measures for the SOAR program, including annual participant counts, to be included in the MFR submission with the fiscal 2028 budget.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

MFR measures for the SOAR MDOA program

With submission of the fiscal 2028 budget

D27L00

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Amount
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

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

D27L00

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

		<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Information Request	Author		Due Date			
Report on measures implemented to reduce case backlogs	MCCR		November 1, 2026			

D50H01

Military Department

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

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program: Chapter 612 of 2023 established the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program in the Military Department, which officially launched in November 2023. The committees request that the Military Department, beginning with the fiscal 2028 MFR submission, include new measures for the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program that track program progress. The measures should include for each year:

- the number of Maryland National Guard (MDNG) members eligible to participate in the program;
- the number of eligible MDNG members enrolled in the program;
- the program participation rate;
- average reimbursement claims submitted;
- average grant amounts; and
- average premium amounts for each of the coverage plans.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR measures for Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program	Military Department	With submission of the fiscal 2028 budget

D53T00

MD Institute Emergency Medical Services System

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

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| 1. | Concur with Governor's allowance. | | | | Concur |
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D78Y01

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

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

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

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

D91

West North Avenue Development Authority

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

1. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

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

E50C

State Department of Assessments and Taxation

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce special funds to delete 1.0 long-term vacant position within the Office of the Director. This position has been vacant since August 2024.		-1.0	Disagree – SDAT reports the Agency Budget Specialist position will be reclassified as an Accountant II position.		
	-\$116,423	SF			
2. Add the following language:			Concur		
<p><u>, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration in the Office of Information Technology may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation submits a report to the budget committees on the status of the Cloud Revenue Integrated System (CRIS) development project as of October 1, 2026. The report shall include:</u></p> <p>(1) <u>a description of CRIS project milestones achieved, remaining milestones, and the overall project schedule; and</u></p> <p>(2) <u>how much funding was appropriated and spent in each fiscal year by fund type.</u></p> <p><u>The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.</u></p>					

E50C

State Department of Assessments and Taxation

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:	This language restricts funds budgeted for administrative purposes until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) submits a report updating the budget committees on the status of the CRIS project and how much funding has been appropriated and spent in each fiscal year.				
Information Request	Author	Due Date			
CRIS Project Status Update	SDAT	November 1, 2026			

E80E

Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board

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

Local Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board (PTAAB) Vacancies and Backlogged Cases: The committees request that PTAAB submit a report on the status of vacancies and backlogged cases for each local jurisdiction. The report shall include the following information for each local PTAAB as of June 30, 2026:

- the number of vacancies; and
- the number of cases in the backlog.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of vacancies and backlogged cases	PTAAB	August 1, 2026

M00A01

MDH – Administration

**Amount
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**Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

- the number of vacant and filled positions at each of the State's five adult psychiatric hospital facilities and the two youth psychiatric hospital facilities;
- the average length of employment of staff at each facility;
- the number of staff needed to avoid overtime shifts among existing employees at each facility;
- the number of MDH staff and the number of Department of Juvenile Services staff necessary to operate the proposed facility for children at JLG RICA;

M00B0103

MDH – Office of Health and Care Quality

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

M00B0104

MDH – Health Professionals Boards and Commissions

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

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

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

2. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

Update on State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (BOPCT) Recommended Activities: The Department of Legislative Services Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) published an evaluation of BOPCT in September 2025. OPEGA’s evaluation included various findings of the board relating to licensing, compliance, management, and staffing. Of the seven recommendations from

M00B0104

MDH – Health Professionals Boards and Commissions

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>the evaluation, six are directed toward the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to consider and BOPCT to implement. BOPCT agreed with all recommendations. To continue tracking BOPCT’s progress in implementing recommendations, the committees request that MDH, in collaboration with BOPCT, submit a report with an update on activities conducted in alignment with the following six recommendations from OPEGA’s evaluation that require action from MDH and BOPCT.</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendation 2: MDH should consider developing and implementing a formal orientation and training program for new executive directors. Additionally, MDH should consider implementing an executive director mentorship program.• Recommendation 3: The smaller Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBC) should consider hiring a dedicated human resources liaison, shared amongst BOPCT and the other smaller HPBC.• Recommendation 4: Consider increasing the number of merit positions within BOPCT by converting contractual positions to merit positions or by transferring vacant merit positions from other HPBC to BOPCT.• Recommendation 5: BOPCT board members should regularly review Intranet Quorum service records with the BOPCT executive director to monitor customer satisfaction and proactively address issues.					

M00B0104

MDH – Health Professionals Boards and Commissions

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendation 6: BOPCT should attempt to reduce the number of initial applications with missing components.• Recommendation 7: BOPCT should implement one comprehensive, standardized internal tracking system for all initial applications and reengineer its process for reviewing initial applications.					

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

M00F

MDH – Public Health Administration

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

Concur

M00F03

MDH – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

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

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

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce funding to reflect savings due to an anticipated turnover rate 3% higher than budgeted in fiscal 2027.			Disagree – BHA projects a payroll deficit due in part to merit positions filled at an average of 4.7 steps above budgeted step, and in part to Section 38 & 41 reductions in the FY26 budget		
	-\$725,000	GF			
2. Add the following language:			Concur		
<u>Further provided that these funds are to be used only for the purposes herein appropriated, and there shall be no transfer to any other program or purpose except that funds may be transferred to programs M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements. Funds not expended or transferred shall be reverted.</u>					
Explanation:	This language restricts the entire general fund appropriation for M00L01.02 Community Services for that purpose or for transfer for provider reimbursements in M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements, or M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements.				

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

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

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

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

4. Add the following language: Concur

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

Amount
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Explanation:

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

5. Add the following language:

Concur

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

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:	<p>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.</p>				

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

6. Add the following language:
- Concur in part – The department concurs with the recommendation but requests funding not be restricted.
- Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation is contingent on the fiscal 2028 budget submission including provider reimbursements for the uninsured and underinsured population in a separate program from the nonprovider reimbursement expenditures in the Community Services program. It is the intent of the General Assembly that beginning in fiscal 2028, provider reimbursement expenditures be budgeted in a separate

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<u>program from grants, contracts, and other administrative expenses in program M00L01.02.</u>					

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

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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7. Add the following language: Concur

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:	The committees are interested in better understanding the spending on provider reimbursements by service type for spending outside of the Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements program. This language restricts funds pending submission of four letters confirming data submission of non-Medicaid provider reimbursements.				
Information Request	Author	Due Date			
Submission of data on provider reimbursements	Maryland Department of Health	July 31, 2026 October 31, 2026 January 31, 2027 April 30, 2027			

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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8. Add the following language:

Concur in part – Agency requests a later due date of January 1, 2027.

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

- (1) the total number of nonprofit CSAs with which the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) held a grant agreement in each fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026;
- (2) the number and share of nonprofit CSAs with a grant agreement in fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 for which BHA did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- (3) the number of fourth quarter invoices submitted by nonprofit CSAs in each fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- (4) the number of annual 440 reconciliations submitted by nonprofit CSAs in fiscal 2024, 2025, and 2026 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- (5) a description of the current process to track and monitor the timeliness of payments to grantees; and

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

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

the steps that BHA has taken and plans to take to ensure timely payment distribution moving forward.

The report shall be submitted by October 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:

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Information Request	Author	Due Date			
Report on timeliness of payments to local nonprofit CSAs	BHA	October 31, 2026			

9. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

Report on the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) Transition: The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) transitioned to a new ASO on January 1, 2025. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the new contractor, Carelon have provided two reports with information about the transition, challenges that have arisen, and how issues have been addressed. The reports also include data on provider registration, claim submission, and claims payments. 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. To ensure that Carelon and MDH are continuing to quickly address issues related to data quality and provider payments, the committees request that BHA submit a report by October 1, 2026, with the following data as of June 30, 2026:

- the number of providers registered with Carelon;
- the number of claims processed by Carelon during fiscal 2026;
- the dollar value of the claims approved by Carelon during fiscal 2026;

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of issues, challenges, or barriers faced by BHA, Carelon, or providers since January 1, 2026; • a description of how Carelon or BHA have addressed any identified challenges; and • a description of remaining data transfer needs between Optum and Carelon. 					

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

10. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur in part – Agency requests a later deadline of August 31, 2026

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

**Amount
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

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Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

program will be reported and tracked to facilitate analysis of utilization trends and estimations of funding needs. BHA should submit by July 31, 2026, a report which includes:

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

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on reimbursable fund Behavioral Health spending in behavioral health Administration Medicaid

July 31, 2026

11. Add the following language:

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

M00L

MDH – Behavioral Health Administration

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>		<u>Decisions</u>	<u>Decisions</u>
Explanation:					
	This language restricts the entire general and federal fund deficiency appropriation for provider reimbursements in M00Q01.10 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements to that purpose or for transfer to M00L01.02 Community Services, M00L01.03 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients, or M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements.				

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

Amount
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Position
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Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

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Decisions

1. Add the following language:

Concur in part - The agency concurs with the submission of

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the report but requests the deadlines be extended by 2 weeks.
administration may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits a report each quarter to the budget committees on spending for the Developmental Disabilities Administration Community Services program.
The report shall include the following monthly and aggregate data on spending in the Long Term Services and Supports system by service delivery model both including and excluding claims for services provided in prior years:

- (1) spending by service provided;
- (2) number of participants receiving the service;
- (3) number of units provided;
- (4) cost per participant;
- (5) utilization of services; and
- (6) annualized cost estimates for the rest of the fiscal year.

The first report shall be submitted by August 15, 2026, and shall include actual data for the Community Services program for fiscal 2026. The second report shall be submitted by November 15, 2026. The third report shall be submitted by February 15, 2027. The fourth report shall be submitted by May 15, 2027. The funds may be released in \$250,000 increments following the submission of the second and fourth reports. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second and fourth reports to review and

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<u>comment. Funds restricted pending receipt of these reports may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the reports are not submitted to the budget committees.</u>				

Explanation:

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

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

Information Request	Author	Due Date	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Report on community services spending	MDH	August 15, 2026 November 15, 2026 February 15, 2027 May 15, 2027					

2. Add the following language: Concur

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

- (1) a comparison of aggregate service utilization rates in the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system compared to in the legacy billing system for Residential Services, Meaningful Day Services, and Support Services, and explanation for any changes in service utilization in the LTSS system;
- (2) a comparison of person-centered plan (PCP) budget utilization rates in the LTSS system compared to in the legacy billing system and explanation for any changes in PCP budget utilization in the LTSS system;

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(3)			<u>a comparison of service utilization and PCP budget utilization rates of actual spending data for fiscal 2025 and fiscal 2026 and estimated rates for fiscal 2027;</u>		
(4)			<u>a description of utilization review controls and systems in place that DDA uses to monitor utilization; and</u>		
(5)			<u>an analysis of how changes in service utilization contribute to overall Community Services spending.</u>		

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

Explanation:

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

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Report on LTSS service utilization trends	Maryland Department of Health	September 15, 2026
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4. Add the following language: No response

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

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

5. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

M00M

MDH – Developmental Disabilities Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
request that MDH provide a report on PCP approval timelines, including for fiscal 2026:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the total number of PCPs reviewed and the total number of individuals who did not have an approved PCP prior to their annual renewal date;• the range and average processing times for annual PCP reviews from the submission of a PCP by the participant to final approval of the participant's PCP;• common reasons for delays in the annual PCP process for participants who submit a PCP prior to their annual renewal date;• a description of DDA’s process when participants’ PCPs are not approved prior to their annual renewal data, including impacts on participants’ access to services, any instances in which a participant would experience a lapse in service delivery, or providers would not receive reimbursement; and• a description of the reasons for 38% of CCS reviews of PCPs not meeting timeliness goals in fiscal 2025 and efforts to improve timely review by CCS.				

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce funding for Medicaid provider reimbursements to account for savings from Medicaid participants with end-stage renal disease enrolling in Medicare as a result of increased outreach efforts.			Disagree - Agency notes a need to continue coverage for patients through outreach implementation.		
	-\$3,000,000	GF			
	-\$5,000,000	FF			

2. Add the following language: Concur

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

Explanation:

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

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

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

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

4. Add the following language: No response

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

**Amount
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Explanation:

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

5. Add the following language:

No response

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits a report on Community First Choice (CFC) program and Community-based Options (Community Options) waiver spending. The report shall include monthly enrollment, utilization, and cost data that aligns with actual fiscal 2026 budget expenditures under the CFC program. Additionally, the report shall provide:

- (1) the number of budgeted Community Options waiver slots in fiscal 2026 and 2027;
- (2) the number of Community Options waiver slots filled in fiscal 2026;
- (3) the number of Community Options waiver applications sent to individuals on the registry each month and the results of that outreach (including the number of applications returned and processed);

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(4)			<u>an update on changes to registry operations to improve efficiency in taking individuals off of the registry and efforts to determine financial and medical eligibility for individuals while they remain on the registry;</u>		
(5)			<u>an update on MDH staffing that supports the Community Options waiver and eligibility determination services for all home and community-based services waivers, including the number of vacant regular and contractual positions and the status of procuring additional staffing assistance;</u>		
(6)			<u>the number of individuals on the Community Options waiver registry as of June 30, 2026; and</u>		
(7)			<u>an update on activities or efforts to implement the plan to reduce the Community Options waiver registry by 50% submitted to the General Assembly in February 2023.</u>		

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

Explanation: Recent efforts to expand home and community-based services have led to significant increases in CFC program expenditures, including spending under the Community Options waiver.

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

This language restricts funds in the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing pending the submission of a report on CFC program and Community Options waiver spending and registry information.

Amount
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House
Decisions

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on CFC program and Community Options waiver spending and registry data

MDH

August 1, 2026

6. Add the following language:

No response

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

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p><u>restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.</u></p>				

Explanation:

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

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

Information Request

Author	Due Date
OLA	45 days before the release of funds

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Status of corrective actions
related to the most recent
fiscal compliance audit

7. Add the following language: Concur

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

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

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8. Add the following language:

Concur

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

Explanation:

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

9. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• descriptions of information technology system updates, including year-to-date spending and estimated total costs, outreach activities to limit• disenrollments, and partnerships and data sharing agreements with other agencies and organizations to check individuals for exemptions;• a discussion of approved exemptions for work requirements and definitions of those exemptions; and• a status update on the number of positions added and reclassified within MDH for OBBBA implementation, including the total cost of the positions by fund type and hiring status.					

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

- the number of eligibility renewals completed, including the number and share that were automatically renewed, with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) cases and non-MAGI cases shown separately;
- the number of new individuals enrolled month over month;
- measures of churn that reflect the number of individuals who previously received Medicaid or Maryland Children's Health Program coverage and the timeframe of when they were last enrolled;
- the number of individuals disenrolled month over month, shown by reason for disenrollment, identifying procedural disenrollments and

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

**Amount
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disenrollments due to overscale income, aging out, noncompliance with work requirements, and other common reasons for disenrollment;

- call center volume, average wait times, and any other data related to call center activities that are required to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

measures of application processing times and the total number of applications processed for MAGI cases and non-MAGI cases shown separately.

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

10. Add the following language: Disagree - Agency requests this item as a targeted reversion rather than a reduction to the deficiency appropriation.
- M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements - Medical Care Programs Administration

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

General Fund Appropriation~~62,682,133~~ 52,682,133

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Federal Fund Appropriation.....	231,948,798	171,948,798			
	294,630,931	224,630,931			

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

11. Add the following language:

Disagree - Agency requests this funding remain in the budget to fill possible shortfalls.

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

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

General Fund Appropriation.....	106,416,159	62,216,159
Special Fund Appropriation.....	-513,006	
Federal Fund Appropriation.....	675,313,430	568,082,603

M00Q01

MDH – Medical Care Programs Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Reimbursable Fund Appropriation.....	18,554,072				
	-799,770,655	<u>648,339,828</u>			

Explanation:

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

M00R01

MDH – Health Regulatory Commissions

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

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

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

2. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

Evaluation of Primary Care Programs and Initiatives: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) are implementing primary care and population health initiatives in coordination with the State’s Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design model. These efforts include launching the Medicaid Advanced Primary Care Program (also known as the Medicaid Path) in fiscal 2026, implementing new paths under Medicare primary care efforts, establishing the Population Health Improvement Fund, and continuing to administer the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) that was first implemented under the Total Cost of Care model. The committees request that MDH, in consultation with HSCRC, submit a report on implementation of the new initiatives, including design and initial activities

M00R01

MDH – Health Regulatory Commissions

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>of the programs, uses of any funding allocated to these initiatives, descriptions of fund sources supporting the initiatives, and estimated cost savings and provider incentives under all components of the primary care programs. The report should also include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the existing MDPCP for the entire performance period under the Total Cost of Care model. In particular, this evaluation should outline cost savings from the MDPCP reducing unnecessary utilization or hospitalization for patients participating in the MDPCP over the increased expenditures from provider incentives.</p>				

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

N00A01

DHS – Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce the fiscal 2027 appropriation for the Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System and Child Support Management System applications by \$5,542,089 to more closely align with anticipated ongoing operating and maintenance costs provided by the Department of Human Services.			Disagree - Agency maintains that additional funds are needed for ongoing development work on the applications.		
	-\$4,144,954	GF			
	-\$1,397,135	FF			
2. Add the following language: <u>, provided that \$750,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration in the Office of the Secretary may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report detailing for the fiscal 2026 working appropriation as reflected during the 2026 legislative session and fiscal 2026 actual expenditures:</u>			Concur in part - Agency concurs with request but requests that the due date be changed to December 15, 2026 to reconcile federal funds.		
(1) <u>Assistance Payments program spending by public benefit program separately by program and fund source;</u>					
(2) <u>Foster Care Maintenance Payments program spending by placement type including average monthly cases, average monthly placement costs, and expenditures, along with detail on flexible fund spending by type of spending with detail for the program by fund source;</u>					
(3) <u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families revenues, expenditures by program, and ending balance;</u>					
(4) <u>special and federal fund sources of expenditures by program.</u>					

N00A01

DHS – Administration

<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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The actual spending detail shall reconcile to information reported to the Comptroller of Maryland or include an explanation of why the information does not reconcile. The report shall also provide explanations of General Fund reversions and special, federal, and reimbursable fund cancellations by program. In addition to the report submission, data shall be provided in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted by September 30, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation:

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

N00A01

DHS – Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Comptroller of Maryland and provides explanations of reverted and canceled funds.

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

3. Add the following language: Disagree - Agency maintains that the funding above the contract cost is needed for service improvements and modernization initiatives.
- Provided that \$6,827,422 of this appropriation, consisting of \$991,414 in general funds; \$5,002,945 in special funds; and \$833,063 in federal funds, made for the purpose of the Constituent Services Call Center is reduced. The Department of Human Services is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs.

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

N00A01

DHS – Administration

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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4. Add the following language:

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

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

Disagree - Agency acknowledges lack of availability of EUSP funds, but maintains that this special fund authority is necessary and allows the agency to correct overreliance on federal funds for the call center.

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

6,757,261 -711,193

Explanation:

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

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

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

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

2. Add the following language: Concur

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

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

Maintenance
(N00G00.01).

Payments

program

3. Add the following language:

Concur in part - DHS requests
due date be moved to December

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits a report to the budget committees on the number of child welfare services cases and positions required based on the caseload to meet the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) caseload standards, by jurisdiction, for the following caseload types, as of September 1, 2026:

- (1) intake screening;
- (2) child protective investigation;
- (3) consolidated in-home services;
- (4) interagency family preservation services;
- (5) services to families with children – intake;
- (6) foster care;
- (7) kinship care;
- (8) family foster care;
- (9) family foster homes – recruitment and new applications;

N00B

DHS – Social Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(10)						
(11)						
(12)						
(13)						

The report shall also include a discussion of specific actions taken by the department and local departments of social services to reallocate positions, including the number of positions reallocated by type (caseworker or supervisor) between jurisdictions and identifying the jurisdictions that these positions were transferred from and to, in order to ensure that all jurisdictions can meet the standards for both caseworkers and supervisors.

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

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

Explanation: The General Assembly believes that maintaining an adequate child welfare workforce is essential to improving outcomes for children entering State care. In order to

N00B

DHS – Social Services

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

maintain oversight over this issue, this language withholds funding until a report with data related to the CWLA caseload standards is submitted, which contains current data as of September 1, 2026.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on caseload data and filled positions assigned by jurisdiction for specified caseload types

DHS

November 1, 2026

4. Add the following language:

Concur in part - DHS requests the due date be December 1,

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

- (1) the number of youth in out-of-home placement served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and the average length of stay (ALOS) by month;

N00B

DHS – Social Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(2)						
<u>the number of youth in out-of-home placement served separately by medical hospitals and inpatient psychiatric hospitals and ALOS by month;</u>						
(3)						
<u>the number of days that youth in out-of-home placements served in hospitals were in the hospital longer than was deemed medically necessary by either the hospital or a judicial finding separately by type of hospital; and</u>						
(4)						
<u>the placement type after discharge separately by type of hospital, including identifying the number of youths placed out-of-state after discharge for fiscal 2026.</u>						

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

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

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

- (1) the number of unique and total youth in out-of-home placements placed in other unlicensed settings, other than kinship care, placements supported by Semi-independent Living Arrangement

N00B

DHS – Social Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<u>subsidy payments, college, or reported as placements in hotels or hospitals;</u>						
(2) <u>the ALOS for youth in out-of-home placements placed in unlicensed settings; and</u>						
(3) <u>summary information on youth placed in unlicensed settings by age category.</u>						

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

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

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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5. Add the following language: Concur

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

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

Explanation:

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds
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6. Add the following language: Concur

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

- (1) number of child maltreatment reports for children and youth in out-of-home placements and type of response exercised (investigative and alternative);
- (2) findings for completed investigations;
- (3) indicated and unsubstantiated findings for completed investigations;
- (4) findings for completed investigations: physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; and mental injury (abuse and neglect);
- (5) unsubstantiated findings for completed investigation: physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; and mental injury (abuse and neglect);

N00B

DHS – Social Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
(6)			<u>in-home family preservation services provided by DHS: new and closed cases;</u>		
(7)			<u>children in out-of-home placements through DHS;</u>		
(8)			<u>out-of-home placements of children in family homes: formal kinship care; restricted foster care; regular foster care; treatment foster care – private; treatment foster care – public; and adoptive homes;</u>		
(9)			<u>out-of-home placements of children in residential treatment centers, independent living, other placements, and trial homes;</u>		
(10)			<u>out-of-home placement exits: reunification; adoption; guardianship; aged out; and other;</u>		
(11)			<u>family foster homes: new homes and closed homes; and</u>		
(12)			<u>formal Kinship Providers</u>		

The data shall be added to the website by December 31, 2026. By January 15, 2027, DHS shall submit a letter confirming that the data for the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026, has been added to the website. Funds shall be available to be released pending receipt of the letter confirming the submission of data. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the letter to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of data may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

N00B

DHS – Social Services

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Explanation:	<p>The General Assembly is interested in monitoring the Child Welfare Services data. Through calendar 2023, DHS uploaded monthly data on its website providing information by jurisdiction on reports of maltreatment, along with other data related to investigation outcomes and placements. DHS has not posted new data for the period beginning with calendar 2024. Although DHS has since developed a data dashboard, the dashboard does not provide the same level of information. This language withholds funding until a letter is submitted confirming the addition of the data to the DHS website.</p>					

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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7. Add the following language:

Concur in part - DHS reports
fiscal 2025 actual expenses

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

lacked standardized
documentation and are not
available. DHS requests due date
of December 15.

N00B

DHS – Social Services

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring costs associated with placing children and youth experiencing stays in hotels. DHS did not provide costs associated with placing children and youth in hotels, as requested by a committee narrative in 2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report. This language withholds funding until costs associated with hotel stays are submitted for fiscal 2025 and 2026 actual, fiscal 2027 working, and fiscal 2028 allowance.

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

8. Add the following section: Disagree

Section XX Medicaid State Plan Amendment

SECTION XX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Administration and \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Medical Care Programs Administration may not be expended until MDH and DHS submit a joint letter confirming the Medicaid State Plan Amendment has been

N00B

DHS – Social Services

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

submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would allow for reimbursement of clinical care services for children in DHS and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) out-of-home placements in residential child care settings. The report shall be submitted by December 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Letter confirming submission of a Medicaid SPA	DHS MDH	December 1, 2026
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9. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

Implementation of Provisions of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): The committees are interested in continuing to receive updates on the implementation of evidence-based prevention practices and

N00B

DHS – Social Services

**Amount
Change**

**Position
Change**

Agency Response Hearing Notes

**Senate
Decisions**

**House
Decisions**

other services under provisions of the federal FFPSA and the outcomes of those programs and services for families and children served. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report including:

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

N00B

DHS – Social Services

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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reimbursement for evidence-based prevention practices

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Update on the implementation of provisions of the federal FFPSA		November 1, 2026
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10. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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Report on child fatalities	DHS	January 11, 2027
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11. Add the following language: Disagree - DHS notes this prevents funds remaining after federal match from being reinvested

N00B

DHS – Social Services

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

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

Explanation:

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

N00H00

DHS – Child Support Administration

<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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1. Add the following language: Disagree - Agency now states that this funding is not double-budgeted and will expand services.
- Provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$679,639 in federal funds for noncustodial parent employment and training contracts. The Department of Human Services is authorized to allocate this reduction across programs

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

N00H00

DHS – Child Support Administration

Amount
Change

Position
Change

Agency Response Hearing Notes

Senate
Decisions

House
Decisions

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur

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

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

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

N00H00

DHS – Child Support Administration

		<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
Information Request	Author					
Child support performance reports	DHS					
			September 15, 2026 December 15, 2026 February 28, 2026			

3. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

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

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

N00H00

DHS – Child Support Administration

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
4. Add the following language:					
N00H00.08 Child Support-State - Child Support Administration			Disagree - Agency maintains that the fund split must be maintained and funds above contract amount are needed for additional initiatives.		
To become available immediately after passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund call center services.					
Special Fund Appropriation....	1,858,906	0			
Federal Fund Appropriation....	-306,707				

1,552,199	-306,707				

Explanation: Reduce special funds provided in a fiscal 2026 deficiency associated with the Constituent Services Call Center to more closely align with the agency’s projected need.

N00I00

DHS – Family Investment

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Delete funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education Program. This program was repealed effective the end of federal fiscal 2025 as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. States were able to continue to spend funds in federal fiscal 2026 if the state had unused appropriation from federal fiscal 2025. However, the fiscal 2027 budget does not account for the repeal of the program by appropriating funds at the same level as the fiscal 2026 budget as enacted, prior to the repeal of the program.</p>	<p>-\$377,639</p> <p>-\$8,893,211</p>	<p>GF</p> <p>FF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concur</p>		
<p>2. Delete funds intended to be used to implement departmental legislation. However, this legislation has been withdrawn. Therefore, the funds are no longer required.</p>	<p>-\$250,000</p>	<p>GF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concur</p>		
<p>3. Reduce the appropriation for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to better align with benefit levels. The fiscal 2027 allowance provides \$1.66 billion in federal funds for SNAP benefits, which is</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Disagree</p>		

N00I00

DHS – Family Investment

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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approximately \$172 million more than was spent in fiscal 2025, despite caseload declines since fiscal 2025. This action reduces the appropriation for SNAP, while leaving an appropriation that is more than \$200 million higher than forecasted levels in the event that caseload and benefit reductions are lower than anticipated.

-\$200,000,000 FF

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 4. | Reduce the federal fund appropriation in the Family Investment Administration to reflect the decrease in the federal share of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative match beginning October 1, 2026. The fiscal 2027 budget includes \$43.12 million of general funds in the Local Family Investment Program to reflect the increase in the State share of the SNAP administrative match from 50% to 75%. However, the fiscal 2027 budget does not reflect the equivalent reduction in federal fund appropriation. This action reduces the equivalent amount of federal fund appropriation. The department is authorized to allocate the reduction among programs to reflect the areas of reduced federal fund availability. | Concur |
|----|--|--------|

N00I00

DHS – Family Investment

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
-\$43,120,000	FF			

5. Add the following language: Concur

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

Explanation:

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

6. Add the following language: Concur

N00I00

DHS – Family Investment

Amount
Change

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

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

N00100

DHS – Family Investment

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(7) <u>the number of case closures separately by reason for case closure by benefit type for TCA, SNAP, TDAP, and PAA separately by month</u>					

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

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

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

N00I00

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February 1, 2027
May 1, 2027

7. Add the following language: Concur in part - Agency prefers a December 1 due date
Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report to the budget committees including the calculation of the Maryland Minimum Living Level annual inflationary adjustment including details of the calculation, and the resulting Temporary Cash Assistance benefit levels separately by size of the assistance unit. The report shall also include the date for which the resulting benefit changes will become effective, and if applicable, an explanation for the reason for an effective date beyond October 1, 2026. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: Annually, the Department of Human Services (DHS) calculates the Maryland Minimum Living Level (MMLL) to ensure that the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefit levels comply with statutory requirements that the TCA plus the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit level equals 61.25% of the MMLL. This calculation has historically been completed to

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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MMLL calculation and DHS resulting TCA benefit changes		October 1, 2026
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8. Adopt the following narrative:

Concur in part - Agency prefers a January 1 due date

SUN Bucks Participation and Administration: The fiscal 2027 budget includes funding to support the third year of participation in the SUN Bucks program. The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the

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operation of the program. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report that:

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

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

Information Request	Author	Due Date
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SUN Bucks participation and administration	DHS	December 1, 2026
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9. Add the following section: Concur

Section XX Reduced Unneeded Fiscal Responsibility Funds in Fiscal 2026

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

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Explanation:

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

10. Add the following language:

N00I00.04 Director's Office - Family Investment Administration

Disagree - Agency indicates the funds are needed for the contract.

To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund cost increases for The Work Number

N00I00

DHS – Family Investment

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
employment and income verification services provided by Equifax Workforce Solutions					
General Fund Appropriation.....	3,772,306				
Federal Fund Appropriation.....	7,945,920	<u>4,173,614</u>			
	11,718,226	<u>7,945,920</u>			

Explanation:

Reduce the federal funds for a deficiency appropriation for the Employment and Income Verification contract. The Department of Human Services indicates that the federal funding need for this deficiency appropriation is \$4.1 million rather than the \$8.0 million provided. This action aligns the deficiency appropriation with the projected need.

N00I0006

DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
1. Reduce general funds for personnel expenses. The Office of Home Energy Programs administrative costs are supported with special and federal funds.			Concur		
	-\$46,229	GF			
2. Add the following language: <u>, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report with data on energy assistance application processing times by local administering agencies (LAA) and overall program denial rates. The report shall include:</u>			Concur in part - The agency requests due date of January 31, 2027		
(1) <u>the number of applications received;</u>					
(2) <u>the average number of days to process an application; and</u>					
(3) <u>the number and percentage of applications processed within 30 days, 55 days, and longer than 60 days.</u>					
<u>The report shall discuss the primary reasons for any substantial changes in processing times that have occurred for individual LAAs between fiscal 2026 and 2027 year-to-date data. The report shall also provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reasons separately by benefit type. Data shall also include the number of applications initially denied due to incomplete information that were subsequently cured due to applicants providing missing information within the additional three months, as allowed under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2026 end-of-year actual data for denial rates shall be included in the report as well as fiscal 2027 data</u>					

N00I0006

DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs

<u>Amount</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Position</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate</u> <u>Decisions</u>	<u>House</u> <u>Decisions</u>
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current through November 1, 2026. The report shall be submitted by December 31, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment from the date of receipt of the report. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted

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

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

3. Adopt the following narrative: Concur

Energy Assistance Participation Rates: The committees are interested in receiving data on energy assistance participation rates for vulnerable populations as well as general participation rate measures for fiscal 2026. General participation rate measures should be reported separately by program.

N00I0006

DHS – Office of Home Energy Programs

<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
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The data should be submitted with the Managing for Results (MFR) submission during the fiscal 2028 budget process.

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

S00A

Department of Housing and Community Development

	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>	<u>Agency Response Hearing Notes</u>	<u>Senate Decisions</u>	<u>House Decisions</u>
<p>1. Reduce funds for the Montgomery County Facade Refresh Program. Funding may be fully or partially replaced using general obligation bonds.</p>	<p>-\$2,500,000</p>	<p>GF</p>	<p>Concur in part - Okay with using bonds; request to maintain full funding</p> <p>Concur</p>		
<p>2. Add the following language:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$183,673 contingent upon enactment of legislation expanding the allowable uses of the Strategic Energy Investment Fund <u>to include programs and applicable initiatives related to State climate change mitigation and climate change resiliency efforts.</u></p> <p>Explanation: This language adds specificity to contingent language on the general fund appropriation to more closely align with the applicable Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act provision.</p>					
<p>3. Add the following language:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">, provided that \$191,321 of this appropriation is contingent upon enactment of legislation expanding the allowable uses of the Strategic Energy Investment Fund <u>to include programs and applicable initiatives related to State climate change mitigation and climate change resiliency efforts.</u></p>			<p>Concur</p>		

S00A

Department of Housing and Community Development

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Explanation:

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