
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment Subcommittee**

Additional Pages

March 13, 2026

C96J00
Uninsured Employers' Fund

Committee Narrative

Report on Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF) Operations and Fiscal Condition: The committees are concerned about the solvency of UEF. The committees request that UEF submit a report providing information on the status of the UEF Board, including the number of vacant and filled positions, as well as the work of the board and activities to oversee the agency operations. The report should also discuss the plan of UEF to improve the fiscal condition to ensure that UEF can meet its obligations related to claims and operations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
UEF operations and fiscal condition	UEF	October 1, 2026

J00H01
Maryland Transit Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00H01.01 Transit Administration – Maryland Transit Administration

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may only be used to provide matching fund grants to partner entities selected by the Maryland Department of Transportation for Purple Line launch marketing in the three months before and three months after the opening of the Purple Line light rail, with the intention that funds not awarded to grantees in fiscal 2027 remain available for award in fiscal 2028. Funds not expended for this purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled.

Explanation: This language restricts funding in the administrative budget of the Maryland Transit Administration for the purpose of providing matching fund grants to partner entities selected by the Maryland Department of Transportation for Purple Line launch marketing activities during the three months before and three months after the opening of the Purple Line light rail.

U00A
Department of the Environment

Budget Amendment

WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

U00A04.01 Water and Science Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submits a report to the budget committees evaluating and recommending options to standardize the interpretation and implementation of State septic system regulations and guidance across jurisdictions. The report shall be developed in consultation with stakeholders including local health departments, the development community, septic system installers and engineers, environmental stakeholders, and other relevant experts. The report shall include the following:

- (1) an examination of variations in how local environmental health officers interpret and apply MDE regulations and guidance, including identification of the statutory or regulatory basis for more restrictive local interpretations; a review of the justification for enhanced or intensive percolation testing and septic system requirements in certain jurisdictions, including but not limited to Howard County; and consideration of how elevated and other nonconventional septic systems are treated across jurisdictions and whether additional clarification or standardization from MDE is warranted;
- (2) an independent assessment of customer satisfaction across jurisdictions, including feedback from individuals directly involved in the percolation testing, plan review, and building permit processes;
- (3) an evaluation of septic system performance data, including the average number of failures annually by jurisdiction, the percentage of failures resulting in significant environmental or public health impacts, and any correlation between local testing requirements and documented environmental outcomes;
- (4) recommendations on predictive flow metrics for all uses, including restaurants, other businesses, and housing, and on how to permit reasonable flexibility in approved flow rates based on plumbing upgrades, flow monitoring, and lookback data after initial approval; and
- (5) recommendations for a standardized statewide process for reviewing, approving, and implementing percolation plans and septic system approvals, including individual, shared, and multi-use systems; a coordinated approval framework for accessory dwelling units and other multi-unit developments served by multi-use systems; and a statewide

flowchart depicting how county health departments, MDE, and local public works or permitting agencies coordinate throughout the approval and implementation process.

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 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: This action restricts funding in the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Water and Science Administration pending the submission of a report on septic system regulations and guidance standardization. The report is intended to identify inconsistencies, improve transparency, and determine whether additional statewide guidance or standardization is needed to address local differences in stringency and permitting requirements across counties.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Septic system regulations and guidance standardization report	MDE	December 1, 2026