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*Deputy Secretary*

## **HOUSE BILL 1661 State Budget – Revenue Stabilization Account Transfers – Coronavirus (Administration)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**DATE: March 6, 2020**

**COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** HB 1661 is an emergency bill that authorizes the Governor to transfer by budget amendment up to \$50 million from the Revenue Stabilization Account to appropriate State agencies to fund costs associated with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Advance notice of at least seven days is provided to the Legislative Policy Committee for review and comment before funds may be transferred. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2021.

**EXPLANATION OF POSITION:** On behalf of the Administration, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) supports SB 1661 to give the Administration the necessary financial flexibility to address the needs of State agencies to take every precaution to prepare and mobilize whatever resources are necessary to address COVID-19.

The bill allows up to \$50 million to be transferred by budget amendment to other State agencies for needs as they may arise. The Legislative Policy Committee will have the opportunity to review any budget amendment before fund transfers.

At this time, there is much uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus; however, we are committed to working together and proactively take every possible precaution to protect the public health.

The Administration is requesting \$10 million in Supplemental Budget #1 to provide the Maryland Department of Health with resources to establish and coordinate a statewide response to the virus. This bill addresses potential needs that may arise across State agencies..

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at  
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