



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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SENATE BILL 563 Local Health Departments – Funding (Griffith)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 17, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 563 mandates a funding increase for the local departments of health to \$70 million in FY 2023 and \$80 million in FY 2024; prevents funding levels from declining below \$80 million in FY 2025 and in subsequent years; and specifies additional categories of spending related to communicable diseases.

EXPLANATION: The FY 2022 Budget allowance for local health departments is \$61.8 million for formula funding and an additional block grant in the amount of \$4 million. The Budget, as introduced, includes \$65.8 million in total funds for local health departments -- a 7.2% increase over FY 2021.

The Department of Health has spearheaded the coordination and funding of COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and vaccinations throughout the pandemic. Local jurisdictions have received significant funding amounts for these purposes during the Summer and Fall of 2020. Those jurisdictions with populations in excess of 500,000 received federal funding directly.

More specifically, the Governor announced on February 4, 2021 more than \$123.2 million in funding to support the local health departments, including resources for ongoing COVID-19 vaccination activities. A \$9 million supplemental budget request will support 21 county health departments for deficits related to closing their self-supported fee-for-service clinics and \$114 million to be awarded (on a reimburseable basis) to local health depts for vaccination activities.

Local health departments are also slated to receive an additional \$5.4 million in COVID-19 Crisis Cooperative Agreement funding (from the December 2020 congressional action). Further, the Biden stimulus package includes \$1.9 billion for Maryland local governments.

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