SENATE BILL 463 Public Safety - Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment (West)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 2, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL:. SB 463 creates a grant fund within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; and mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of $500,000 to provide grant assistance to local governments and organizations to create and support Police Athletic League programs.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the annual $500,000 mandated appropriation.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The highest priority of the Administration is to work with the 2021 General Assembly in enacting the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496/HB 612 RELIEF Act). The RELIEF Act provides $1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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