

Carrington 2021 SB800 Inmate Training and Job Act.p

Uploaded by: Carrington, Darrell

Position: FAV



Carrington & Associates, LLC

"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"

SB 800 – Public Institutions of Higher Education - Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Academic and Employment Opportunities – SUPPORT w/Amendments

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS SB800. This bill is a pilot program at 4 HBCU's Bowie State, Coppin State, Morgan State and UMD Eastern Shore. Each campus will have a primary contact person that will work directly with the returning citizens and coordinate to support the returning citizen in success in the curriculum. The primary contact person must be over 18, registered at the institution and enrolled in their junior or senior year. The program is jointly administered by the MD Higher Ed Commission and the Division of Corrections within the Dept of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

We would like to thank Senator Obie Patterson for introducing this legislation and his steadfast commitment to civil rights for all citizens. This legislation provides opportunities for returning citizens to gain access to our institutions of higher learning in their pursuit of life-changing course work. This course work will eventually lead the program participants toward a degree, licensing and/or certification in a sought-after industry-recognized discipline. We are very grateful to the HBCU's for stepping up to assist this effort in getting off the ground. The unique experiences of the enrolled students that will serve as mentors and support for program participants will be impactful and hopefully lead to successful outcomes. The reporting mechanisms are equally important as we document the participants progress toward the goals of the pilot program.

We have spoken with the Senator's office and believe that we should increase the time period for interaction with the program participants from 9 months to 12 months and ensure that the primary contact works with the program participant over the 2 years that they agree to update the program on their progress.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically **SUPPORTS SB800 with the amendments mentioned** and asks for your **FAVORABLE** report.

SB 800 Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 Positio

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Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 800

Senator Obie

Patterson

(Judicial Proceedings Committee)

Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 800 – Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 – This bill establishes the Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at certain institutions of postsecondary education to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for returning citizens in the 9 months preceding the person's date of release; requiring the Pilot Program to be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the governing entity of each institution; requiring the Governor to include certain appropriations for the Pilot Program in the annual budget bills for fiscal years 2023-2026; etc. The bill also has reporting requirements for the institutions to the Commission, Governor and General Assembly detailing the number of program participants, course work and any degrees, certificates and/or licenses.

Since 2005, Prince George's County has focused efforts on returning citizens and assisting them to successfully transition back into society. Working in collaboration across several agencies, the County created a workgroup to form a "One-Stop Shop" for returning citizens. The One-Stop Shop consisted of wrap around services such as probation, healthcare, housing and working with the MVA to obtain identification for returning citizens. This legislation will assist returning citizens prior to their release, gain access to our institutions of higher learning in pursuit of life-changing course work. This course work can eventually lead the program participants toward a degree, licensing and/or certification in a sought-after industry-recognized discipline.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 800** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

HBCU Support.pdf

Uploaded by: PATTERSON, Obie

Position: FAV



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Senator Obie Patterson
Twenty-Sixth Legislative District of Maryland (PG County)
The Maryland General Assembly
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street # 201
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Returning Citizen and HBCU Bill (SB800)

Dear Senator Patterson:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) writes to lend our support for the Returning Citizen and HBCU Bill (SB800) which is scheduled to be presented before Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on March 9, 2021 and which we are excited to be part of.

Research evidence shows that postsecondary education transforms life, imparts responsibility, increases chance of better gainful employment, improves quality of life, and strengthens family cohesiveness. This is true of mainstream society, and most importantly with incarcerated inmates. As the saying goes, "an idle mind is a devil's workshop", so for the inmates, prison education occupies idle mind, boosts morale, conveys sense of belonging, keeps hope alive for better future upon release and restores some lost dignity thereby enhancing behavior modification toward better and safer prison management.

Up until about 2007, UMES ran a successful inmate undergraduate education program at Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) and graduated several students who upon release made use of their degree to become gainfully employed. To this end, we see this pilot program as a hopeful venture based on our experience. It will also be an investment in the future of the society at large as it will greatly reduce recidivism in the community. Our previous program died when the funding dried up and the grant was not renewed. We, therefore, cannot be more elated if this similar program is reinstated.

We appreciate your initiative and are totally in support of your efforts towards advocating for this pilot program. The best aspect of the proposal is that it is a virtual program, as such UMES will play its own part to ensure its success if funded. We have the faculty and student manpower

to support it especially with the extra virtual and online experience we have acquired with the COVID-19 total shut down of face-to-face learning in Maryland.

Please count on our Hawk support and we will be glad to help in any way the program requires of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi M. Anderson".

Heidi M. Anderson, PhD, FAPhA
President



Natasha C. Pratt-Harris, MS, PhD
Associate Professor & Criminal Justice Program Coordinator
Dept of Sociology, Anthropology, and (Criminology/Criminal Justice)
Morgan State University
1700 East Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21251
443-885-3506

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 800: Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

TO: Office of the Honorable Senator Obie Patterson – *Deputy Majority Whip* Twenty-Sixth
Legislative District of Maryland | Prince George's County

FROM: Dr. Natasha C. Pratt-Harris
Title: Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator
DATE: March 5, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1337: Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

TO: Office of the Honorable Delegate Susie Proctor, Prince George's and Charles Counties

FROM: Dr. Natasha C. Pratt-Harris
Title: Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator
DATE: March 5, 2021

Dr. Natasha C. Pratt-Harris is an associate professor and coordinator of the Criminal Justice program in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and (Criminology/Criminal Justice) with Morgan State University. She has published in the peer-reviewed *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies* and the *Journal of Human Behavior for the Social Environment* (JHBSE). Her scholarship began nearly 30 years ago where she has examined the experiences of Black males in higher education and the criminal justice system. Black men, women, and children have been disparately represented in both.

Dr. Pratt-Harris is an expert, educator, and a resident of Maryland, from Baltimore city. In addition to her professional experiences, she has a lived experience engaging with men women, and children in the family, classroom (students and colleagues), and community. One of the most endearing experiences she has had is within collaborations with colleagues at Bowie State University, Coppin State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State University and in the District of Columbia, with Howard University. Her pedagogical, scholarly, and service approach has centered around HBCUs working together to address the needs of the community.

Together with Dr. Jacqueline Rhoden-Trader, Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Chair at Coppin State University, and Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology, at Howard University, Dr. Pratt-Harris has brought the community to the classroom and the classroom to the community. During the Fall 2021 semester the three professors will lead the fourth Baltimore-cohort of Policing-Inside Out. This three-credit course is offered to students at the three institutions and allows for community members and police officers to earn continuing education credits with HBCU students together during a semester long course that is used to address crime and police-community relations. Collaborations such as these are necessary and impactful and can be effective for men, women, and children in detention.

Dr. Pratt-Harris supports SB800 and HB 1337 because she has acknowledged, in nearly three decades worth of work, educational opportunities should be the great equalizer. The opportunity, however, is thwarted due to the disparate experiences of Black people who are disproportionately under criminal justice supervision, which includes their disparate representation as jail/ prison inmates. Black people are vulnerable not only to contact within the criminal justice system but have had disparate access to educational and training opportunities. The sheer possibility of detention, coupled with disparate access to a college education and training, lessens the life chances, quality of life opportunities, and the diversity in exposure, skill training, etc. for detainees.

Dr. Pratt-Harris notes that disparate contact within the criminal justice system is not limited to persons who have not accessed educational or training opportunities but also persons who have yearnings to achieve a college degree and/or certifications so that they can be competitive. Both groups should be offered a chance at these opportunities if they are incarcerated. Empirical evidence supports the notion that with more educational and training opportunities, recidivism rates improve and men, women, and children who were once incarcerated achieve.

Dr. Pratt-Harris fully supports SB 800 and HB 1337, is looking forward to collective work statewide, and acknowledges one caveat of problems that has gone under the radar but is addressed by this bill. If a college student or an apprentice finds him/ or herself in detention the opportunity to continue their studies and/or their training is often thwarted. This bill provides the continuation of learning and the opportunity for a student to graduate even if they are detained.

Dr. Natasha C. Pratt-Harris

UMES-Support-SB800.pdf

Uploaded by: PATTERSON, Obie

Position: FAV



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Senator Obie Patterson
Twenty-Sixth Legislative District of Maryland (PG County)
The Maryland General Assembly
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street # 201
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Up until about 2007, UMES ran a successful inmate undergraduate education program at Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) and graduated several students who upon release made use of their degree to become gainfully employed. To this end, we see this pilot program as a hopeful venture based on our experience. It will also be an investment in the future of the society at large as it will greatly reduce recidivism in the community. Our previous program died when the funding dried up and the grant was not renewed. We, therefore, cannot be more elated if this similar program is reinstated.

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to support it especially with the extra virtual and online experience we have acquired with the COVID-19 total shut down of face-to-face learning in Maryland.

Please count on our Hawk support and we will be glad to help in any way the program requires of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi M. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heidi" being the most prominent.

Heidi M. Anderson, PhD, FAPhA
President

SB800 FWA Andrea Cantora 3.9.21.pdf

Uploaded by: Tabor, Suzanne

Position: FWA



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 800

Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

March 9, 2021

Favorable with Amendment

Andrea Cantora

Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice

Good Afternoon Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my views regarding Senate Bill 800. My name is Andrea Cantora and I am an Associate Professor at the University of Baltimore in the School of Criminal Justice. I am also the director of the Second Chance Program. On June 26, 2016, the University of Baltimore (UB) was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative. UB's program is being offered at Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI), a maximum-security prison for men. As of the spring 2021 semester we have 48 students who will study toward a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services Administration degree. While taking courses at JCI students receive academic support from UB faculty and staff, community volunteers, and their incarcerated peers. I support the intent of SB 800, but request the following amendments to continue to ensure the success of incarcerated students.

I do not support the delivery of virtual vocational or educational programming in prison settings. In our experience the most effective method is to deliver programming in-person. Students living in prison benefit from the community-based learning that takes place in the classroom setting with other students and faculty present. In-person learning allows for human interaction (such as connectivity, role modeling, and mentoring) that is absent in virtual programs. Since August 2020 our prison education program has been delivered virtually. We have been using video conferencing to allow our faculty to lecture and deliver course material to a group of 15 students in the prison education space. Students (only 15 allowed in one room due to COVID safety guidelines) gather around one TV monitor to attend a virtual lecture. This was the mode of delivery set up by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Our students have struggled with this mode of delivery due to the inability to receive one-on-one support such as tutoring, academic advising, and reentry counseling. Pre-COVID, these support services and all lectures took place in-person for a total of 25 hours each week. Students were able to have individual tutoring and advising with staff. Reentry counseling also took place one-on-one to ensure confidentiality of student needs. Students who were struggling with coursework were easily identified and targeted for tutoring support. I recommend changing the



current language in section 24-1303 (C) (1) to “Courses provided under this section shall be provided through in-person formats, or hybrid if COVID restrictions are still in place.”

In section 24-1302 B, the pilot program should not be restrictive to serving those in the last 9 months of a sentence or parole date. Assuming some pilot programs may offer certificates or training that may take longer than 9 months to complete, and the fact that release/parole dates are not always clearly known, I recommend changing this to 18 months – 24 months. I strongly recommend that pilot program mentors be awarded diminution credits for their participation. In SB800 it states that “A student who participants in the pilot program shall receive course credit and a small stipend from the pilot program.” I recommend that the mentors receive diminution credits for this special project (see: 2016 Maryland Code Correctional Services Title 3 - Division of Correction Subtitle 7 - Diminution Credits § 3-707. Diminution credits -- Special projects).

Lastly, I request that the University of Baltimore is added to the public higher education institutions involved in the Pilot Program. The University of Baltimore has been educating students at Jessup since 2016 and would like to be involved in the Pilot Program. These proposed amendments would improve the experience of incarcerated students. I urge the committee to adopt these amendments. Thank you.

Andrea Cantora, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
Director of Second Chance College Program
acantora@ubalt.edu

SB0800 LOI 3.4.2021.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Fulginiti, Andrew

Position: INFO

Senate Bill 800

Date: March 9, 2021
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Title: Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021
Re: Letter of Information

SB 800 establishes the “Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program” within the Maryland Higher Education Commission. MD Labor oversees several offices and initiatives that are duplicative of items proposed in this bill, including the American Job Centers, Reentry Navigators, Office of Correctional Education, and the education tablet initiative.

Senate Bill 800 proposes the creation of an MHEC-administered telephone hotline for counseling and job coaching and an “Individualized Plan” to assist with finding a job post-release. MD Labor already fulfills this purpose through its 30 American Job Centers and 5 Reentry Navigators who work to connect pre-release inmates with specialized employment services. The AJCs provide services across the State, including virtual services, such as job search and job placement assistance, resume writing workshops, and career counseling. Jobseekers are encouraged to direct general inquiries about AJC services to a dedicated phone number and email address, both of which are regularly monitored by AJC staff ready to assist. Reentry Navigators assist individuals with criminal backgrounds by increasing their employability, providing equal access to resources, making employment referrals, and sharing information and incentives with businesses who hire returning citizens. While working with a Navigator, jobseekers create an Individualized Employment Plan outlining career goals and steps towards finding a job. If needed, the Navigators refer customers to partner organizations to assist with housing, food security, and more.

Through the Office of Correctional Education, MD Labor offers academic, occupational, and transitional programming within the prisons across the State. The department currently offers 25 different career training opportunities, all of which lead to a portable, industry-recognized credential. Academic programming includes GED preparation ahead of earning a Maryland High School Diploma. Transitional programming includes classes in parenting, employment readiness, financial literacy, and life skills.

Remote instruction is challenging at State correctional facilities due to extremely limited internet access and technology. Recognizing the value of virtual learning, the Department has partnered with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to establish an Educational Tablet initiative. The program began in 2017 and has since expanded to 8 prisons with 87 tablets total. The departments are working to dramatically expand the initiative in 2021 through a competitive procurement process. At this time, the tablets can only be used for MD Labor Correctional Education programming.

Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov | 410-230-6020 | www.labor.maryland.gov

DPSCS_LOI_SB800.pdf

Uploaded by: Kahl, Catherine

Position: INFO



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

45 Calvert Street, Suite B7A-C, Annapolis MD 21401
410-260-6070 • Fax: 410-974-2586 • www.dpsscs.state.md.us

STATE OF MARYLAND

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GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
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CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

GARY McLHINNEY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CATHERINE KAHL
ACTING DIRECTOR

BILL: SENATE BILL 800

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: This bill will establish an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at four universities of higher education. The Pilot program is to be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission for the purpose of providing educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the 9 months preceding the inmate's date of release.

COMMENTS:

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates approximately 17 State correctional facilities that house offenders sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also runs the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and less.
- SB 800 provides that the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall administer an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for the purpose of providing educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the 9 months preceding the inmate's date of release.
- The Department of Labor currently provides correctional educational opportunities to inmates through programs offered at each State correctional institution. The mission is to provide incarcerated individuals with educational and workforce development opportunities that facilitates a successful transition into community.
- The Department recognizes the value of education and has demonstrated success in partnering with colleges and universities to provide continued education to incarcerated individuals.
- The Second Chance Pell Program supports postsecondary education programs for individuals in prison and affords inmates the opportunity to receive higher education certificates and degrees. The Department already has partnerships with four of Maryland's higher education institutions who were awarded the Second Chance Pell Grant: Goucher College; Anne

Arundel Community College; Wor-Wic Community College; and the University of Baltimore. With the recent expansion of the Second Chance Pell Program, the DOC is growing partnerships with more colleges throughout the State, including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Bowie State University.

- SB800 will require that classes be provided on a virtual platform. The Department already has a limited tablet pilot program with the Department of Labor. The tablet pilot program only includes material taught by the Department of Labor's Correctional Education program and not higher education material. Since state correctional facilities have thick concrete walls and are often decades old, outfitting them with wifi and internet connectivity is extremely challenging. It took the Department a notable amount of time and effort in order to equip the facilities selected to participate in the Department of Labor's tablet pilot program. The Department anticipates similar challenges in implementing SB 800.
- **CONCLUSION:** For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates Senate Bill 800.

SB800 MHEC Letter of Information 03092021.pdf

Uploaded by: Towers, Lee

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Andrew R. Smarick
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 800

Position: Letter of Information

Title: Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Hearing Date: March 9, 2021

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 800 would establish an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and administered jointly between MHEC and the governing entities of each university. The purpose of the Pilot Program is to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the 9 months preceding the inmate's date of release.

Information:

Many Maryland universities, including the four listed explicitly in Senate Bill 800, already provide educational and vocational training opportunities to inmates. For example, The Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP), a division of Goucher College, provides men and women incarcerated in Maryland with the opportunity to pursue a college education. Anne Arundel Community College supports the Success Through Education Program (STEP), which offers sentenced inmates General Education Development (GED), Preparation (Pre)-GED, Adult Basic Education, Adult Literacy and Advance Life Skills instruction. With the recent expansion of Pell Grants allowing incarcerated individuals to access federal funds, institutions like the University of Maryland Eastern Shore are preparing to provide college-level courses to inmates. The Maryland Department of Corrections works very closely with the campuses to ensure background checks are handled appropriately and work through the administrative oversight for colleges and universities to provide such educational opportunities. Similarly, the Maryland Department of Labor provides educational opportunities that facilitate a successful transition into Maryland's workforce and communities.

While MHEC can administer the Pilot Program, there may be entities in the State that can better provide specific expertise regarding the experiences of incarcerated individuals. Again, Maryland Department of Labor and Maryland Department of Corrections already provide educational programming for incarcerated individuals. MHEC is not well suited to provide the required follow-up – such as a hotline and connections with nonprofit organizations – with a previously incarcerated individual after their release, as required by the legislation; either the university or other entities would be better to provide the support needed to prevent recidivism and ensure the individual is able to continue their educational pursuits.

For further information, contact Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, at emily.dow@maryland.gov.

SB 800 Inmate Training & Job Act (Patterson) EHEA

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 800 Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 (Patterson)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 9, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL:. SB 800 creates an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at each of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the nine months preceding the inmate's date of release. The program is administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the higher education institution, with the cooperation of the Division of Corrections. Each inmate is assigned a primary contact at the higher education institution and three student mentors to provide support through their virtual coursework. MHEC shall facilitate inmate contact with nonprofit organizations regarding job placement, housing and counseling services. The bill mandates an appropriation in the amount of: \$125,000 in FY 2023; \$137,500 in FY 2024; \$151,250 in FY 2025; \$151,250 in FY 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter. Costs associated with the Pilot Program are administrative costs at MHEC and Division of Corrections, grants to participating HBCUs, and stipends to student mentors.

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 following mandated appropriation amounts: \$125,000 in FY 2023; \$137,500 in FY2024; \$151, 250 in FY 2025; and \$151, 250 in FY 2026 and thereafter.

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 General Assembly and Administration have successfully enacted the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496 RELIEF Act), which provides \$1.1 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. It is incumbent upon us to allow the impact of this unprecedented relief package on the State's economy to take effect. Further mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of an ongoing pandemic.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**

45 Calvert Street · Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

Tel: 410-260-7041 · Fax: 410-974-2585 · Toll Free: 1-800-705-3493 · TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

