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DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

HOUSE BILL 113 Board of Revenue Estimates and Bureau of Revenue Estimates – Organization and Operations (Lierman)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

DATE: February 4, 2021

COMMITTEE: House Ways & Means

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB 113 requires the Chief of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates to be selected by the Comptroller from a list of three candidates recommended by the Consensus Revenue Monitoring and Forecasting Group; establishes the Chief's salary as an ES 10 and the Deputy as an ES 7, with a minimum of six analysts; codifies various reporting requirements and transparency initiatives regarding livestreaming of meetings; and provides web access to reports and projections of the General Fund and the following special funds (Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, Education Trust Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, and Program Open Space).

EXPLANATION: The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is a member of the Board of Revenue Estimates and supports the professionalism of the Bureau staff and their exceptional work. To that end, the FY 2022 Budget provides funding to adjust the salaries of the staff of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates and DBM recently processed a salary adjustment for the Executive Director of the Bureau.

It is atypical to include salaries in the Annotated Code of Maryland because personnel matters are more aptly determined by DBM's Classification and Salary Division. The Division is responsible for determining the classification for all State employee positions under the jurisdiction of the Secretary. The Division analyzes individual positions and systematically maintains the classification plan and the State Salary Plan. It also recommends emergency salary actions and develops salary and benefits data and costs for pay recommendations. To codify specific salary grades does not take into consideration future changes to the salary structure or changes to the professional responsibilities of the positions, which could result in assigned levels being out of date or under market rates.

The Department supports the intent of the legislation to professionalize the Board and to improve the transparency of the Board's works, but we respectfully request the provisions regarding salaries and positions be deleted from the legislation.

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