



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

HOUSE BILL 494 Public Safety - Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment (C. Jackson and Bhandari)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 15, 2022

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB 494 creates a Police Athletic League Grant Fund in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) to support police athletic league programs designed to build relationships among youth, police, and the community. The bill mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$1 million for grants to be awarded GOCPYVS.

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 \$1 million mandated appropriation provision that impacts the FY 2024 and subsequent budgets. The FY 2023 Budget includes \$450,000 for Boys and Girls Clubs and Police Athletic Leagues as a prevention strategy, in partnership with law enforcement, to support the Baltimore City Crime Prevention Initiative.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

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