



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 602 Baltimore City - District Court - Jobs Court Pilot Program (McCray)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 22, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings and Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 602 creates a Jobs Court Pilot Program in the Baltimore City district court, the purpose of which is to reduce recidivism by offering defendants an opportunity to participate in full time job training and job placement programs as a condition of probation, alternative to incarceration, or a condition of pretrial release; and mandates an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 in FY 2024 to the Baltimore Workforce Development Board for distribution to local workforce investment boards or other nonprofit entities that participate in the pilot program by identifying employers and training programs. The program sunsets in June 30, 2027.

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 \$500,000 mandated appropriation provision that impacts the FY 2024 budget.

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. Despite a provision in the bill, appropriations cannot be mandated in FY 2023.

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.

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>

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