

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

TITLE: HB0825 Brain Health – Guidelines, Grant Fund, and Commemorative Month (Tahjai’s Law)

DATE: March 17, 2025

COMMITTEE: Government, Labor, and Elections; Appropriations

POSITION: Letter of Information

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB0825 establishes the Maryland Brain Health Grant Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund, consisting of money appropriated in the State budget to the fund and other sources accepted for the benefit of the fund. The fund will be used for grants to support brain health awareness activities, screening services, illness prevention, etc. This bill requires MDH to administer the Maryland Brain Health Grant Fund and report on fund uses and statewide data annually to the Maryland General Assembly. It also requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Brain Health and Chronic Headache Awareness Month and contains a mandate of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2028 only.

EXPLANATION: The total appropriation mandated by this bill would amount to \$500,000 in fiscal year 2028 only. Other MDH expenditures would include an external consultant for health system analysis and healthcare provider engagement; a 0.5 FTE Epidemiologist contractual for standardizing reporting codes; and a 0.5 FTE Community Health Educator contractual for grant administration and reporting. The fiscal impact increases from \$149,798 GF in fiscal 2027 to \$594,289 GF in fiscal 2028 before decreasing to \$134,563 in fiscal 2029, \$88,137

Given forecasted out-year deficits and significant uncertainty about the federal budget and policy changes, it would be challenging for the State to manage this increase in spending. This challenge is compounded by major, unforeseen changes in federal policy and other ongoing budgetary pressures. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) now forecasts significant shortfalls beginning in Fiscal Year 2027 and escalating into Fiscal Year 2028.

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