



Report of the
Education, Business, and
Administration Subcommittee
To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

2024 SESSION

Recommendations, Reductions, and Summary of
Action Pertaining to:
Senate Bill 360

General Assembly of Maryland

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee

2024 Session Membership Roster

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Recommended Reductions
Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
2025 Budget Request					
Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) – Aid to Education	\$7,247,474,689	\$1,622,064,666	\$1,183,436,369	\$0	\$10,052,975,724
<i>Subtotal Fiscal 2025 Regular Budget</i>	<i>\$7,247,474,689</i>	<i>\$1,622,064,666</i>	<i>\$1,183,436,369</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$10,052,975,724</i>
Fiscal 2025 Total Budget	\$7,247,474,689	\$1,622,064,666	\$1,183,436,369	\$0	\$10,052,975,724
Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget					
MSDE Aid to Education	0	0	55,602,067	0	55,602,067
<i>Subtotal Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$55,602,067</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$55,602,067</i>
Total Fiscal 2024 Deficiency Budget	\$0	\$0	\$55,602,067	\$0	\$55,602,067
Grand Total Budget Bill	\$7,247,474,689	\$1,622,064,666	\$1,239,038,436	\$0	\$10,108,577,791

D05E01
Board of Public Works

Committee Narrative

Maryland Zoo Operational Reporting: In continuance of the practice that began in July 2008, the committees request that the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc. (MZS) submit audited financial statements for fiscal 2024 and quarterly reports showing monthly attendance figures for the zoo for fiscal 2025 by visitor group. This should include a breakdown of the kinds of passes allocated.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audited financials	MZS	November 1, 2024
Quarterly reports showing monthly attendance	MZS	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025

D17B0151
Historic St. Mary's City Commission

Budget Amendments

D17B01.51 Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may not be expended until the Historic St. Mary's City Commission submits a report detailing the progress toward full implementation of all recommendations made in the external audit report submitted to the budget committees in March 2023, including examples of how each recommendation has been implemented, and a timeline for implementing all recommendations. The report shall be submitted by September 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The Historic St. Mary's City Commission (HSMCC) submitted the results of an external audit in March 2023. The audit made several recommendations for changes to HSMCC's operations. This language restricts funds from HSMCC until the agency submits a report detailing the progress toward full implementation of all recommendations and examples of how each recommendation is being implemented, as well as a timeline for implementing all recommendations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Audit recommendations implementation report	HSMCC	September 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

D18 Governor's Office for Children

Budget Amendments

D18A01.01 Governor's Office for Children

Amend the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$15,000,000 of this appropriation is contingent upon passage of the ENOUGH Act made for the purpose of supporting the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households grant program is contingent on enactment of SB 482 or HB 694 establishing the program.

Explanation: This action is a technical amendment to include bill numbers related to the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households grant program and to reflect a general fund reduction for the program, which is contained in a separate action.

Amendment No. _____

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section 37 Out-of-home Placements Report

SECTION 37. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation of the Department of Human Services Social Services Administration, \$100,000 of the General Fund appropriation of the Department of Juvenile Services, \$100,000 of the General Fund appropriation of the Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration, and \$100,000 of the General Fund appropriation of the Maryland State Department of Education may not be expended until the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) submits a report on behalf of the Children's Cabinet to the budget committees on out-of-home placements containing:

- (1) the total number and one-day counts (as of January 1) of out-of-home placements and entries by jurisdiction, by agency, and by placement type for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024;
- (2) the total number and one-day counts (as of January 1) of out-of-state placements, including the number of family home, community-based, and noncommunity-based out-of-state placements for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024 categorized by state and by age category;
- (3) the costs associated with out-of-home placements;

D18

- (4) an explanation of recent placement trends;
- (5) findings of child abuse and neglect occurring while families are receiving family preservation services or within one year of each case closure; and
- (6) areas of concern related to trends in out-of-home and/or out-of-state placements and potential corrective actions that the Children’s Cabinet and local management boards can take to address these concerns.

Further provided that each agency or administration that funds or places children and youth in out-of-home placements shall assist GOC and comply with any data requests necessary for the timely production of the report. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by January 1, 2025, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise for any other purpose. Should the report not be submitted by the requested date, the restricted funds shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: The out-of-home placements report is a report mandated by Section 8-703(e) of the Human Services Article. It is also annually requested to be submitted to the budget committees. This report is a useful evaluative tool to assess the well-being of Maryland’s youth and families and to identify areas of concern related to youth placed out-of-home. This language restricts funds in each of the data reporting agencies and specifies the data of interest to the General Assembly, including agency-specific data for out-of-home and out-of-state placements.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Out-of-home placements report	GOC Department of Human Services Department of Juvenile Services Maryland Department of Health Maryland State Department of Education	January 1, 2025

Amendment No. _____

D22
Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture

Budget Amendments

D22A01.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for increased health insurance costs for new positions as a technical correction. These expenditures are double budgeted due to funding already being budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management.	-28,622	GF

Total Change	-28,622	0.00
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<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	11.00	11.00		0.00
General Fund	1,616,421	1,587,799	-28,622	
Special Fund	13,000	13,000	0	
Total Funds	1,629,421	1,600,799	-28,622	

Amendment No. _____

D25
Interagency Commission on School Construction

Budget Amendments

D25E03.03 School Safety Grant Program

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that it is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly that local education agencies use a portion of the funding appropriated for the School Safety Grant Program for the purpose of studying and procuring potential artificial intelligence technologies that identify guns in and around school property.

Explanation: This language expresses the intent of the Maryland General Assembly that local education agencies investigate and procure potential artificial intelligence technologies that identify guns in and around school property.

Amendment No. _____

F50
Department of Information Technology

Budget Amendments

MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUND

F50A01.01 Major Information Technology Development Project Fund

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$1,900,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of funding the Department of General Services eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution Major Information Technology Development Project may not be expended until the fiscal 2025 information technology project request for the project has been provided by the Department of Information Technology to the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted 45 days before the expenditure of funds, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: New and ongoing projects must submit an information technology project request (ITPR) to request funding for the project, which is then to be approved by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The Department of General Services (DGS) submitted a request for fiscal 2025 funding for the eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution project. While funding was included in the fiscal 2025 allowance for the project, the ITPR was still pending approval from DoIT. This language restricts general funds for the project until DoIT has provided the ITPR to the Department of Legislative Services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Fiscal 2025 ITPR for the DGS eMaryland Marketplace eProcurement Solution project	DoIT	45 days before the expenditure of funds

Amendment No. _____

F50

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$1,500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of funding the Maryland Department of Health Public Health Services Data Modernization Program Major Information Technology Development Project may not be expended until the fiscal 2025 information technology project request for the project has been provided by the Department of Information Technology to the Department of Legislative Services. The report shall be submitted 45 days before the expenditure of funds, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: New and ongoing projects must submit an information technology project request (ITPR) to request funding for the project, which is then to be approved by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and then provided to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). The fiscal 2025 ITPR for the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Services (PHS) Data Modernization Program project has not been provided to DLS. This language restricts general funds for the project until DoIT has provided the ITPR to DLS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Fiscal 2025 ITPR for the MDH PHS Data Modernization Program project	DoIT	45 days before the expenditure of funds

Amendment No. _____

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

F50B04.01 State Chief of Information Technology

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase turnover expectancy for 11 new positions to 25% to be consistent with budgeted turnover for new positions.	-377,207 GF	
Total Change	-377,207	0.00

F50

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	29.00	29.00		0.00
General Fund	21,237,431	20,860,224	-377,207	
Total Funds	21,237,431	20,860,224	-377,207	

Amendment No. _____

F50B04.02 Security

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the security program may not be expended until the Department of Information Technology submits a report to the budget committees on the estimated cost of implementing remediation efforts determined to be needed in the cybersecurity assessments. The report shall include information on how the remediation efforts will be categorized to prioritize based on urgency and risk levels, and the estimated cost for each of the identified categories. The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Chapter 242 of 2022 requires that the Office of Security Management (OSM) within the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) ensure that each State agency completes an external assessment at least once every two years and assists each unit to remediate any security vulnerabilities or high-risk configurations identified in the assessment. Agencies excluded from the legislation must also have a similar process. This language restricts funds pending a report on the cost of remediation efforts determined to be needed as a result of the cybersecurity efforts. The submitted report is required to include information on how remediation efforts will be categorized and the costs associated with each category.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on cybersecurity assessment remediation implementation	DoIT	October 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

Managing for Results Goals (MFR) and Indicators for Services to State Agencies: The Department of Information Technology's (DoIT) fourth MFR goal is to provide efficient and high-quality information technology services to State agencies. DoIT also has indicators that measure the workload and efficiency. However, the goal does not address value, and there are no indicators for costs. Many of the services that DoIT provides are comparable to services provided by the private sector and other organizations. DoIT should expand its MFR goals to include value and add indicators that measure costs and value. The department should report these indicators with the MFR submission accompanying the fiscal 2026 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR indicators for value and costs of DoIT's services to State agencies	DoIT	With the submission of the fiscal 2026 budget

Plan for Spending Cybersecurity Funds Appropriated in the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA): The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) will have access to up to \$98.5 million in funding in the DPA to support cybersecurity efforts. DoIT advises that these funds will support the next phase of the cybersecurity assessments, including ongoing cybersecurity, vulnerability risk and reduction assessments, privacy impact assessments, and implementation of remediation recommended by the assessments. The committees request that DoIT report on its plans to spend funds in the DPA. The report should include discussions of the activities and timing of the spending and progress made securing State information technology hardware, software, and systems. It should also include an update on efforts made to address cybersecurity risks in legacy systems.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on spending DPA funds	DoIT	December 31, 2024

H00
Department of General Services

Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

H00A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Department of General Services Office of State Procurement (OSP) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$100,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) OSP has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2024; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2025.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

Amendment No. _____

H00

Committee Narrative

Status of State Center Relocation: The Department of General Services (DGS) is in the process of relocating various State agencies out of State Center and into leased space in Baltimore City. The State also voided a public-private partnership agreement, which resulted in litigation. The committees request that DGS submit a report on the status of moves and new site locations for each agency moving out of the complex, the status of litigation, and the uses and timing of State Center funds appropriated into the Dedicated Purpose Account to support State agency moves and demolition.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
State Center status report	DGS	July 15, 2024 December 15, 2024

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

Budget Amendments

P00F01.01 Occupational and Professional Licensing

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for the Electronic Licensing Modernization project. These funds were included in the allowance in error.	-2,793,000	SF
Total Change	-2,793,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	69.00	69.00		0.00
General Fund	368,865	368,865	0	
Special Fund	14,080,354	11,287,354	-2,793,000	
Total Funds	14,449,219	11,656,219	-2,793,000	

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

P00G01.13 Adult Corrections Program

Prison to Honest Jobs Workgroup: The committees direct the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to establish a workgroup on Prison to Honest Jobs to study current incarcerated individual education, job training, and in-prison job and reentry programs and make recommendations to maximize the number of incarcerated individuals who are prepared to be employed immediately upon release. The workgroup should include representatives from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association, the Department of Natural Resources, and up to four senators and four delegates. The workgroup should also consult with relevant stakeholders, including businesses that are current or potential employers of formerly incarcerated employees of Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE); experts in reentry and employment; nonprofit and community-based workforce providers, trainers, and advocates; and labor unions and trade associations.

P00

The workgroup should submit an interim report on its progress to the budget committees by December 1, 2024. The interim report should also include an overview of:

- current job training and education programs, along with the numbers and profiles of incarcerated individuals participating in each;
- the number and profiles of incarcerated individuals who have jobs while in prison with MCE and others;
- the number of incarcerated individuals who gain employment immediately upon release; and
- opportunities to scale up MCE and other job opportunities while incarcerated.

The workgroup should also submit recommendations by December 1, 2025. The recommendations should propose strategies to maximize the number of incarcerated individuals with jobs on release. Strategies should include:

- for the Division of Correction to develop an individualized plan for each incarcerated individual to prepare that individual for success on release;
- education for incarcerated individuals to include basic math, reading, and computer skills, as well as rigorous aptitude and attitude assessments and job skill training;
- encouraging potential employers and apprenticeship programs to actively recruit and employ incarcerated individuals; and
- encouraging incarcerated individuals to participate in a work release program, including work release for an apprenticeship program or incarcerated individual labor in MCE.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Prison to Honest Jobs Workgroup interim report	MDL, in consultation with DPSCS	December 1, 2024
Incarcerated individual career and training program plan	MDL, in consultation with DPSCS	December 1, 2025

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A06.02 Maryland Center for School Safety – Grants

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds to the Maryland Center for School Safety for the School Resource Officer grant program by \$3.0 million. This reduction will be backfilled with special funds from the Safe School Fund balance.	-3,000,000	GF
2. Reduces special funds for the new Emergency Preparedness grant in the Maryland Center for School Safety. Local education agencies can fund emergency preparedness planning within their operating budgets.	-3,000,000	SF
Total Change	-6,000,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	13,000,000	10,000,000	-3,000,000	
Special Fund	13,600,000	10,600,000	-3,000,000	
Total Funds	26,600,000	20,600,000	-6,000,000	

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

\$3,000,000 in special funds is added to the appropriation for program R00A06.02 Maryland Center for School Safety – Grants within the Maryland Center for School Safety budget for the purpose of funding the School Resource Officer grant program. Funds not expended for this added purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the Safe Schools Fund.

Explanation: This language adds \$3.0 million in special funds to the appropriation for the School Resource Officer grant in the Maryland Center for School Safety budget.

Amendment No. _____

R00A01

Committee Narrative

R00A01.01 Office of the State Superintendent

Report on Accounting Practices: Due to ongoing concerns about accounting practices, the committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submit a closeout report by October 1, 2024. This report should include an explanation for encumbrances and reversions for all general, special, federal, and reimbursable funds for any amount that does not equal zero.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on accounting practices	MSDE	October 1, 2024

Report on State Education Agency Federal Stimulus Funds: Due to school closures prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) received approximately \$303.0 million in State Education Agency (SEA) federal stimulus funds. To ensure proper monitoring of the use of these funds, the committees request that MSDE report by November 1, 2024, on all SEA program expenditures distributed as part of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This report should include:

- grant expenditures by school and program for State-mandated funds allocated to the Maryland School for the Blind, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and the School for Educational Evolution and Development;
- grant procedures, allocations, and expenditures by program for all discretionary allocations;
- expenditures by MSDE department and object for administrative costs; and
- unexpended funds by program, reasons that funds were not allocated or expended, anticipated expenditures of those funds by program for future years, and funds that may have been canceled.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on SEA ESSER funds	MSDE	November 1, 2024

R00A01

Report on the Maryland Leads Program: The American Rescue Plan Act requires State agencies to spend a designated percentage of elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds to address learning loss. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) applied these funds to a new noncompetitive grant program for local education agencies (LEA), Maryland Leads. However, analysis of this program indicates potential issues with how funding was distributed and whether the program will directly impact student learning loss. To ensure proper oversight of this program and funding, the committees request that MSDE report by December 1, 2024, on the Maryland Leads program. The report should include the following information:

- a summary of progress on Maryland Leads objectives to date;
- LEA implementation plans by Maryland Leads subprogram;
- expenditures by LEA and subprogram for fiscal 2023 and 2024, including expenditures on personnel;
- summative assessments or outcome measures, by LEA and program, implemented to remediate student learning loss;
- documentation of improvements in literacy and math proficiency, by LEA, grade, and subprogram, as the result of Maryland Leads initiatives; and
- a plan and timeline to share updates on Maryland Leads implementation and outcomes with the public, either on the MSDE website, LEA websites, or by other means.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Maryland Leads	MSDE	December 1, 2024

Information on Type I Diabetes: The budget committees are concerned about access to informational material for parents and guardians regarding Type I diabetes in children provided by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), both in printed material and on the department's website. The budget committees request that MSDE, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), provide materials on Type I diabetes to each local education agency, county board of education, charter school, as well as post relevant materials on MSDE's website. This information should be provided and posted no later than January 1, 2025, and include, at a minimum:

- a description of Type I diabetes; risk factors; and stages;

R00A01

- screening opportunities for children displaying warning signs of this disease and a description of screening processes and test result implications; and
- recommendations on follow-up care with medical professionals upon identification and diagnosis.

Additionally, a report containing copies of the printed material and information on the process for developing and distributing the material should be submitted to the budget committees no later than January 15, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Information on Type I diabetes	MSDE MDH	January 15, 2025

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of the State Superintendent may not be expended until the agency submits to the budget committees by November 1, 2024, a report on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). This report should include, but is not limited to:

- (1) a timetable for MCAP administration for all assessments for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, including field testing and pilots for new assessments;
- (2) details on MCAP measurement of student learning loss in the 2024-2025 school year by local education agency (LEA), subject area, grade level, and assessment, as well as additional steps taken, if any, by MSDE at the State level to measure student learning loss;
- (3) details on MCAP administration in the 2024-2025 school year by LEA, program, grade level, and assessment, including alternative assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment;
- (4) anticipated changes, if any, to assessments for virtual school students in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;
- (5) expenditures in fiscal 2024 and 2025 and anticipated allowances for fiscal 2026 for each MCAP assessment, assessments under development, and administration, including contractual expenditures by vendor;
- (6) information pertaining to any formal review of MCAP assessments and standards in calendar 2024 and 2025 by MSDE, by curriculum and assessment, including any anticipated changes to MCAP assessments as a result of that review and the projected costs of those changes; and
- (7) information on adaptive testing and how MSDE is working to resolve reported concerns with adaptive testing, by grade level and assessment, including actions MSDE has taken in calendar 2024 or plans to take in calendar 2025, to assist teachers in preparing students for these assessments, including actions such as providing teachers with test banks, assessment preparation materials, formative assessments, diagnostic tests, professional development, or any other materials or actions aligned with MCAP assessments.

The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by

R00A02

budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: MSDE is responsible for administering student assessments as part of MCAP. Due to continuing issues involving student learning loss after school closures in calendar 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 as well as reported issues with adaptive testing and misalignment between MCAP tests and the current Maryland curriculum standards in certain subjects, this language directs MSDE to submit a report regarding actions the agency is taking to resolve these issues.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MCAP	MSDE	November 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

Add the following language:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of the State Superintendent may not be expended until the agency submits to the budget committees by August 1, 2023, a report on the agency's enrollment collection procedures for free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) students for fiscal 2025 (2024-2025 school year) and an accompanying dataset. This report and dataset should include the following enrollment data by local education agency (LEA) and school:

- (1) the number of eligible students (eligible enrollment);
- (2) the number of free, reduced-price, and paid meal students;
- (3) the number of direct certification students, including counts of students in all eligible categories, including students eligible for Medicaid benefits between 185% and 189% of the federal poverty level;
- (4) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enrollment, including the percentage of FRPM students in the fiscal year prior to entry into CEP; and
- (5) greater than comparisons by LEA and school used to calculate compensatory education enrollment.

The report should also include:

- (1) procedures used by LEAs to collect and review enrollment data to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to MSDE;

R00A02

- (2) procedures used by MSDE to check for omissions, errors, or other irregularities prior to submission to the Department of Legislative Services and the Department of Budget and Management to determine education State aid funding;
- (3) procedures used by MSDE's Audit Office to audit these data biannually; and
- (4) if applicable, a description of changes to MSDE's enrollment collection procedures for fiscal 2026.

The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: MSDE is responsible for accurate counts of FRPM students to determine student eligibility for FRPM benefits as well as funding of the compensatory education and concentration of poverty grant programs. Due to issues involving enrollment counts in recent audits and submitted fiscal 2025 data, this language directs MSDE to submit a report regarding actions the agency is taking to resolve these findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on FRPM enrollment	MSDE	August 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

R00A02.07 Students With Disabilities

Report on the Nonpublic Placement Program: The committees are concerned about costs for the Nonpublic Placement program; implementation of nonpublic school special education teacher pay parity related to the Teacher Pay Parity Act (Chapter 648 of 2023); and actions taken by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to implement this program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report by October 1, 2024, including (1) program closeout data for fiscal 2024 by provider, including annual reimbursement costs and documentation on potential remaining discrepancies at the end of the fiscal year; (2) actions taken in calendar 2023 and 2024 to implement Chapter 648; and (3) planned actions related to implementation of Chapter 648 and efforts to achieve pay parity in future years.

R00A02

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Nonpublic Placement program	MSDE	October 1, 2024

Status Update on the Autism Waiver Program: The committees are concerned about the Autism Waiver program, which currently has a registry of more than 6,000 individuals and is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The committees request that MSDE submit a status update on this program by September 1, 2024, that provides the following information:

- current number of waiver slots requested and approved;
- procedures to contact individuals on the registry when slots become available;
- a timeline for the addition of slots from fiscal 2025 through 2029;
- projected costs for Autism Waiver services considering anticipated changes in the management of the Autism Waiver registry for fiscal 2025 through 2029.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on the Autism Waiver program	MSDE	September 1, 2024

R00A02.13 Innovative Programs

Status Update on the Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program (P-TECH): The committees are concerned about enrollment and projected costs for the P-TECH program, which is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local education agencies (LEA). An accurate P-TECH enrollment count is important because P-TECH students are included in the full-time enrollment count for the State Share of the Foundation program. P-TECH program costs are determined by a variety of factors, including student enrollment in community college courses and the costs for those courses in any given year. The committees request that MSDE submit a status update on the P-TECH program by August 1, 2023, that provides the following information:

- explanation of the process by which MSDE includes P-TECH students in the full-time enrollment count;
- current enrollment in all P-TECH programs by high school, community college, cohort, and entry year, including a breakout of fifth- and sixth-year students;

R00A02

- projected enrollment in all P-TECH programs in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years;
- the total number of students who left the program in any given year and reasons for departure;
- the total number of students who have graduated by program and the percentage completion rate;
- community college courses attended by P-TECH students with cost per course per semester;
- current cost for the program in fiscal 2025 and total projected cost for the program in fiscal 2026; and
- projected average cost by student, program, and LEA for fiscal 2025 and 2026, including supplemental school and college grants by institution and LEA.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on P-TECH	MSDE	August 1, 2024

R00A02.59 Child Care Assistance Grants

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Waiting List Proposal: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) indicates that the fiscal 2025 allowance for the CCS program does not incorporate estimated savings resulting from a provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 that would authorize MSDE to implement an enrollment freeze under the program. The committees request that MSDE submit a report with the following information:

- an outline of specific spending or enrollment triggers that would prompt the implementation of an enrollment freeze within the CCS program. These triggers should indicate if they are based on predetermined thresholds or indicators that signify financial constraints or capacity limitations, among others;
- strategies proposed by MSDE for effectively managing waitlists within the CCS program. These strategies should address how waitlists will be monitored, prioritized, and managed to ensure allocation of subsidies to eligible families; and
- fiscal 2024 and 2025 year-to-date forecasts from the Regional Economic Studies Institute at Towson University for the CCS program, including estimated savings related to the implementation of an enrollment freeze.

R00A02

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on plans for a CCS waiting list	MSDE	September 1, 2024

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Quarterly Reports: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has implemented several changes under the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program in short succession, including raising income eligibility levels, increasing provider reimbursement rates, and waiving assigned copayments for most participating families, that all took effect May 23, 2022. These programmatic changes combined with enrollment growth have led to higher CCS program costs and shortfalls in fiscal 2023 and 2024. The committees request that MSDE submit quarterly reports with the following information:

- CCS expenditures, including Child Care and Development Fund spending that was carried over from prior fiscal years, the amount of newly authorized federal funds expended (with federal awards from COVID-19 stimulus legislation listed separately), and general fund spending;
- fiscal 2025 year-to-date spending and annualized cost estimates, noting the adequacy of remaining State and federal fund sources;
- the number of scholarships awarded by income eligibility category by month, total expenditures for those scholarships, and average cost per child;
- CCS expenditures disaggregated by federal and State funding used directly for scholarships and expenditures by MSDE Headquarters for administrative costs and activities to improve provider quality, specified by purpose;
- updates on the provider reimbursement rate as a percentile of the market rate, statewide and by region, including the status of the next market rate survey or alternative method allowable under federal law;
- quarterly updates on whether the department is maintaining a CCS waiting list and, if so, which income categories are impacted and how many children and families have applied for CCS benefits and been added to the waiting list; and
- updates on the implementation of an enrollment freeze and changes in copayments, including up-to-date savings estimates.

R00A02

In its August 2024 report, MSDE should include actual data for the CCS program in the final quarter of fiscal 2024 and aggregate fiscal 2024 data. All reports should provide data on a monthly basis for fiscal 2025 year to date.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CCS quarterly expenditure reports	MSDE	August 1, 2024 November 1, 2024 February 1, 2025 May 1, 2025

Reports on Local Education Agency (LEA) COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Fund Expenditures: In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, LEAs received a total of \$256.6 million as authorized in the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (Chapter 39 of 2021) and allocated in the fiscal 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 357 of 2022) for tutoring, behavioral health, summer school, school reopening, and transitional supplemental instruction. As part of mandated reporting in Chapter 55 of 2021, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Program – Revisions, LEAs were required to report on expenditures of these funds to the General Assembly and the Accountability and Implementation Board through calendar 2023. Based on the reports submitted in calendar 2023 and the timeline for expenditures of federal stimulus funds distributed as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which do not expire until September 2024, the committees are concerned that some LEAs have not expended all funds, and, for some LEAs, expenditures were not accurately reported. The committees request that the 24 LEAs submit a final report by December 1, 2024, consistent with the requirements of the previously mandated report on COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures, which requested the following information: (1) the county board's use of federal funding to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education; and (2) State funding received to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Program, including a description of the amount of funding spent on student instruction. Additionally, as part of this submission, LEAs should review previous reports for this purpose and document corrections in this final report.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
LEA reports on COVID-19 federal stimulus fund expenditures	LEA	December 1, 2024

R12

Accountability and Implementation Board

Budget Amendments

R12A01.01 Accountability and Implementation Board

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) submits a report to the budget committees on agency actions to implement Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) grant programs. This report shall include a timeline and detailed information on the progress in completing the following programs, reports, and measures:

- (1) fiscal 2023 and 2024 Managing for Results performance data, including collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for annual data collection and reporting of performance measures;
- (2) review of calendar 2023 and 2024 State agency Blueprint implementation plans;
- (3) collaboration with MSDE, the State Board of Education, and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to revise teacher preparation program requirements;
- (4) collaboration with MSDE to provide targeted training on Blueprint to superintendents, school administrators, senior instructional staff, and local boards of education;
- (5) progress on procuring a vendor to complete the independent evaluation of Blueprint implementation and outcomes; and
- (6) allocation, facilitation, and review of local education agency (LEA) and Career and Technology Education Committee technical assistance grants in fiscal 2023 and 2024, including grant application procedures and documentation, use of funds, roles and responsibilities of strategic facilitators, categorized expenditures by LEA, and AIB collaboration, training, and accountability measures for grantees.

The report shall be submitted by September 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: AIB is an independent agency of State government that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Blueprint grant programs. Due to recent issues involving the timely submission of reports, grant administration, required training, and other administrative

R12

tasks, this language restricts funding budgeted for administrative purposes until AIB submits a report regarding the timeline and planned agency actions to complete the activities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on delayed activities supporting Blueprint implementation	AIB	September 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

R62I00
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Budget Amendments

R62I00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) MHEC has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2024; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2025.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by OLA that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings. If OLA reports that an agency failed to completely resolve or make adequate progress toward resolving those repeat audit findings, JAEC requests that \$250,000 in general funds is withheld from each agency's appropriation in the fiscal year following the OLA report until more satisfactory progress has been made toward resolution of those repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
State of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

Amendment No. _____

R62I00

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses in the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) appropriation may not be expended until MHEC submits a report to the budget committees on the impact of credit completion requirements on financial aid awards for students in the 2023-2024 academic year and the 2024-2025 awarding year. The report should provide information on how many students met the requirement to receive the full amount of award, had their awards prorated, and lost eligibility. In addition, the report shall include, for the most recent review cycle, the total amount of funds distributed by Educational Excellence Award (EEA) type, and the distribution of that funding by level of credit attainment categories and, to the extent available, the dollar value of the reduced and lost EEA award due to the level of credit attainment. The report shall also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours and those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report shall provide the summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report shall also identify how MHEC alerts EEA recipients that they are in danger of losing their award. The report shall be submitted by December 11, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the general fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in continuing to monitor the impact of the credit completion requirements on students receiving EEA awards. This language restricts funds pending a report on the impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards	MHEC	December 11, 2024

Amendment No. _____

R62I00

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission submits a report to the budget committees containing a review of the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. The report should provide information on:

- (1) how often the website is updated;
- (2) frequency and types of website malfunctions;
- (3) website transparency, including regularity of use of breaking news notifications;
- (4) an assessment of usability;
- (5) information on items posted on the website, including programs, types of research data, description of supportive services; and
- (6) resources provided on the website to assist individuals applying for financial aid or repaying student loan debt.

The report shall be submitted by December 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the general fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in understanding the information available on the Office of Student Financial Assistance website. This language restricts funds pending a report on the evaluation of the website and information on how to apply for financial aid.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the evaluation of the website and how to apply for financial aid.	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2024

Amendment No. _____

R62I00

Committee Narrative

Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Category: In order to more fully understand all types of aid available to students, the committees request that data be submitted for each community college, public four-year institution, and independent institution on institutional aid, Pell grants, and student loans. Data should include, by EFC, the number of loans and average loan size of federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans and loans from private sources as reported to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Additionally, data should be provided on Pell grants, including the number and average award size by EFC. Finally, data should include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for institutional grants, institutional athletic scholarships, and other institutional scholarships. The data in the response should differentiate between need-based aid and merit scholarships. Data should also include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for tuition waivers/remissions of fees to employees and dependents and students. Waiver information for students should be reported by each type of waiver in State law. This report should cover fiscal 2023 data received by MHEC from State institutions and is to be submitted in an electronic format (Excel file).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Institutional aid, Pell grants, and loan data by EFC	MHEC	July 1, 2024

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% Completion Goal: The committees understand that in order to meet the State’s goal to have at least 55% of Maryland’s residents ages 25 to 64 holding at least one degree credential by 2025, accurate and timely information on degree progression and best practices is needed to ensure that the State is on track to meet the goal. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) annually collect and analyze student- and transcript-level data on progression, graduation, and other relevant metrics from each public institution of higher education, including community colleges and regional higher education centers. MHEC should submit a report by December 15 each year that analyzes the data and shows each institution’s progress toward the State and institutional goals in 2025. The report should also include a summary of best practices and findings on the effectiveness of institutions’ programs as well as any concerns regarding lack of progress or best practices that are not being implemented by institutions.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on best practices and annual progress toward the 55% completion goal	MHEC	December 15, 2024

R62I0005
Aid to Community Colleges
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

R62I00.05 The Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for the Distribution of Funds to Community Colleges

Developmental Education at Community Colleges: The committees are interested in the impact that different developmental education strategies have on students' outcomes. The committees request that the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) submit a report on the development education approach at the State's community colleges. The report should include information related to, but not limited to, the use of corequisites, multiple measures placement, and math pathways. In addition to data on the methods of developmental education, the report should include how colleges work with students needing developmental education and ensure completion of necessary coursework. Recognizing that the Maryland Higher Education Commission data on developmental outcomes is not the most recent, the report should include any information on student outcomes related to recently implemented developmental education outcomes. This report shall be submitted by November 4, 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on developmental education	MACC	November 4, 2024

Tuition Waivers and Supplemental Services: The committees are interested in better understanding the impact of tuition waivers and the cost of supplemental services and supports provided by the community colleges. The committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) jointly submit a report on tuition waivers for students and supplemental services and supports provided to students with disabilities provided by community colleges. The report should include the type of tuition waivers provided by community colleges and, for each waiver, the number of waivers provided and the cost to colleges for each community college. The report should indicate if any of the tuition waivers are designated for students with disabilities. The report should also include information on the cost of the supplemental services and supports that the community colleges provide to students with disabilities by college and on per student basis. The report should include data for fiscal 2022 through 2024 or the three most recent years of actual available data.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Tuition waiver and supplemental services	MHEC MACC	October 1, 2024

R62I0010
Student Financial Assistance
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R62I00.10 Educational Excellence Awards

Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Postsecondary Outcomes: The committees remain interested in determining how many NGS students met the eligibility requirements and later enrolled in a postsecondary institution. The report should identify the number of NGS seniors for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, the number of NGS seniors who successfully met all of the eligibility requirements, the number of eligible NGS seniors receiving a guaranteed access award, and the number of seniors who later enrolled in a postsecondary institution of higher education in either the summer session or the fall semester and identify to which higher education segment those students enrolled.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on postsecondary outcomes for NGS senior students	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 1, 2024

R75T0001 Higher Education

Committee Narrative

R75T00.01 Support for State Operated Institutions of Higher Education

Instructional Faculty Workload Report: The committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) continue to provide annual instructional workload reports for tenured/tenure-track faculty. By focusing on these faculty, the committees gain a sense of the teaching activities for the regular core faculty. However, there are other types of instructional faculty at institutions, such as full- and part-time nontenured/nontenure-track faculty including adjunct faculty, instructors, and lecturers. Focusing on only tenured/tenure-track faculty provides an incomplete picture of how students are taught. Therefore, the report should also include the instructional workload when all types of faculty are considered. Additional information may be included at the institution's discretion. Furthermore, the USM report should include the percent of faculty meeting or exceeding teaching standards for tenured/tenure-track faculty for the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual report on faculty workload	USM MSU SMCM	December 13, 2024

Report on Calculation of Graduate Credit-Hour Full-time Equivalent Student (FTES): The credit hour FTES enrollment at Maryland's selected public four-year institutions is used in the calculation of the Cade, Sellinger, and Baltimore City Community College funding formulas. Calculating annual undergraduate credit hour FTES is a straightforward calculation that divides the total number of undergraduate credits produced by 30 (representing a full-year credit load). However, the method for determining graduate credit hour FTES can vary from simply dividing the total number of graduate credit hours produced by 24 (for a full-year credit load) or by disaggregating graduate credit hours by course level, degree level, and novel research requirements to better reflect the intensity of higher-level doctoral course work and novel research productivity compared to master's level course work. Given the variation in calculating graduate credit hour FTES, the committees request that the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) convene a workgroup to develop a uniform methodology for calculating graduate credit hour FTES to be used by the public four-year institutions when calculating their total FTES. A report should be submitted jointly by USM, MSU, and SMCM by September 16, 2024, and include the agreed upon methodology that all institutions will use in calculating their graduate credit hour FTES.

R75T0001

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on calculation of
graduate FTES

USM
MSU
SMCM

September 16, 2024

R95C00
Baltimore City Community College

Committee Narrative

R95C00.00 Baltimore City Community College

Enrollment and the Mayor’s Scholars Program (MSP): The committees request a report on MSP that includes updated information on MSP for the 2023-2024 academic year and that identifies what additional actions are being taken to increase enrollment per full-time equivalent student. Additionally, the report should provide the following information on MSP: (1) the number of applications received for all cohorts, the number of students who enrolled each semester, and the number of first-year students who enrolled in the second, third, and fourth year (where applicable); (2) the number of students who participated in the Summer Bridge program for all cohorts; (3) the number of students in all cohorts applicable who have successfully completed at least 15 credits each semester, or a total of 30 credits in their academic year; and (4) the amount of financial aid provided to scholars in year one, two, three, and four by cohort, including the total amount each year and the average student award.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Enrollment and MSP	Baltimore City Community College	December 2, 2024

R99E
Maryland School for the Deaf

Budget Amendments

R99E01.00 Services and Institutional Operations

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Maryland School for the Deaf submits a report addressing concerns from a January 2024 audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits. This report shall provide details on actions taken by the agency to resolve all four audit findings. The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: In a recent audit by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) had four findings, including one repeat finding. These findings involved procurement procedures, Department of General Services and Board of Public Works approvals, bids on *eMaryland Marketplace Advantage*, and a memorandum of understanding with an affiliated foundation. This language directs MSD to submit a report regarding actions taken to resolve these findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OLA findings	MSD	November 1, 2024
Amendment No. _____		

Committee Narrative

Report on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Scores: The KRA is a standardized test used by the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) as a Managing for Results (MFR) measure to assess students entering kindergarten in four areas: language and literacy; mathematics; social foundations; and physical well-being and motor development. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in fiscal 2019, students scored above 40% proficiency in mathematics and physical well-being and below 20% proficiency in language and literacy and social foundations. Due to pandemic-related school closures, in fiscal 2020 through 2023, students scored below 30% proficiency in all measures, with student language and literacy and social foundations scores at or below 10% proficiency. The MFR goal for this measure is for 45% of entering kindergartners to be proficient in each tested area. Due to concerns with continued lags in KRA scores, the committees request that MSD report by December 1, 2024, on actions taken by MSD, including

R99E

local education agencies and organizations that work with kindergarten students entering MSD, to improve KRA scores for entering kindergarteners in all tested areas.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on KRA scores	MSD	December 1, 2024

T00
Department of Commerce

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$96,494 of general funds, \$30,792 of special funds, and \$2,899 of federal funds of this appropriation made for the purpose of personnel expenditures shall be reduced to increase the turnover expectancy. The Department of Commerce is authorized to allocate this reduction across the agency's programs.

Explanation: This action adds language to reduce personnel expenditures in order to increase the turnover rate for existing positions within the Department of Commerce from 4.89% to 5.43%, the same level as fiscal 2024.

Amendment No. _____

Study on Barriers to Accessing Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) for Small, Woman-, Minority-, and Veteran-Owned Businesses: The committees are concerned that the cost to meet federal requirements to access classified information is higher than small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses can afford within their first five to seven years in operation. In particular, businesses may need access to SCIFs in order to bid and qualify for national security and cybersecurity contracts, but the cost to access SCIFs may be cost prohibitive for these businesses. In an effort to better understand the challenges facing these businesses and possible solutions to ensure equitable access to building the cyber economy, the committees direct the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to conduct a study on the potential to establish grant programs or other incentives to help lower the barriers to access to SCIFs for small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses. The committees request Commerce submit a report by November 1, 2024, detailing the study's findings and recommendations.

Information Request	Authors	Due Date
Report on findings and recommendations regarding equitable access to SCIFs for small, woman-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses.	Commerce	November 1, 2024

T00
Department of Commerce

Budget Amendments

T00F00.27 Business Telework Assistance Grant Program

Amend the following language in the general fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$1,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation to eliminate the funding mandate for the Business Telework Assistance Grant Program as established under Sections 5-1701 and 5-1702 of the Economic Development Article.

Explanation: This is a technical amendment to align the wording of the contingent language in the budget bill with the SB 473 and HB 582 as introduced.

Amendment No. _____