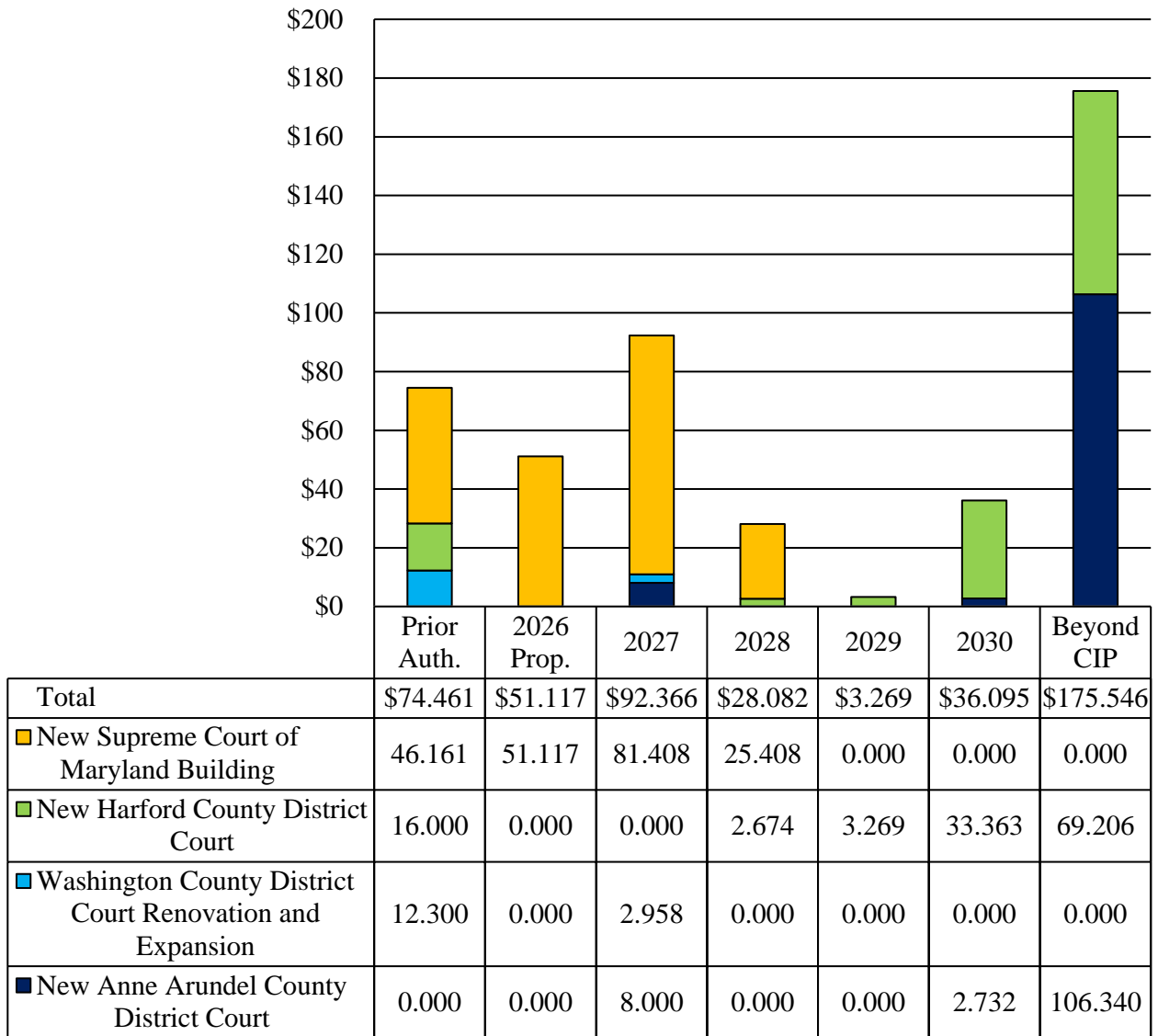


**DE0211
Judiciary – Capital**

Capital Budget Summary

**State-owned Capital Improvement Program
(\$ in Millions)**



CIP: *Capital Improvement Program*

Note: All projects are funded with general obligation bonds. The prior authorized amount for the new Supreme Court of Maryland building reflects the planned reversion of \$51.1 million of general funds appropriated in fiscal 2023.

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Key Observations

- **Delays Impact Project Schedule for New Supreme Court of Maryland Building:** A delay in the procurement of the construction services contract has necessitated a one-year deferral to the start of construction for the new facility for the Supreme Court of Maryland. As a result of the delay, the total cost to complete the project is now estimated at \$204.1 million, an increase of \$11.1 million from last session’s estimate. **The Judiciary should brief the committees on the current status of the construction services contract procurement, and if the process will be completed in time to avoid additional delays to the start of construction.**

GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Reduce \$25,000,000 in general obligation bonds for the New Supreme Court of Maryland building.

DE0211C New Supreme Court of Maryland Building \$ 26,117,000

<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Authorization</u>
51,117,000	-25,000,000	26,117,000

Explanation: Reduce funds for the New Supreme Court of Maryland building based on a revised construction schedule.

2. Increase amount preauthorized for the 2026 session.

ZF4400 SECTION 13 – Judiciary – New Supreme Court of Maryland Building \$ 111,408,000

Add the following language:

DE02.01 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

JUDICIARY/MULTISERVICE CENTERS

- (B) New Supreme Court of Maryland building. Provide funds to continue construction of a new Supreme Court of Maryland building in Annapolis, provided that notwithstanding § 6 of this Act, work may continue on this project prior to the appropriation of all funds necessary to complete this project (Anne Arundel County).....
- 81,408,000
111,408,000

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Explanation: This action adds to the amount preauthorized for the New Supreme Court of Maryland Building for the 2026 session. Delays in the procurement of a construction contract result in a revised funding schedule that includes a reduction in the amount needed for fiscal 2025 and a corresponding increase to the amount preauthorized for the 2026 session.

Total General Obligation Bonds Reductions	\$25,000,000
Total Preauthorization (2026) Additions	\$30,000,000

Summary of Fiscal 2026 Funded State-owned Projects

New Supreme Court of Maryland Building

Project Summary: This new building will house the Supreme Court of Maryland, the Appellate Court of Maryland, the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, and other Judiciary units. It is replacing a facility constructed in 1972 that has functionally obsolete mechanical systems, structural issues, and insufficient space for the current needs of the units housed in the facility. Additionally, the current building does not meet ADA requirements and does not have an effective layout for security.

New/Ongoing: Ongoing								
Start Date: April 2021				Est. Completion Date: November 2027				
Fund Sources:								
(\$ in Millions)	Prior Auth.	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Beyond CIP	Total
GO Bonds	\$46.161	\$51.117	\$81.408	\$25.408	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$204.094
Total	\$46.161	\$51.117	\$81.408	\$25.408	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$204.094
Fund Uses:								
(\$ in Millions)	Prior Auth.	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Beyond CIP	Total
Planning	\$11.863	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$11.863
Construction	33.626	51.117	81.408	25.408	0.000	0.000	0.000	190.559
Equipment	1.672	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.672
Total	\$46.161	\$51.117	\$81.408	\$25.408	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$204.094

- **Need:** The existing facility has issues with the climate control systems, insufficient space for modern court operations, structural issues, and insufficient space for necessary security features. The current building also lacks space for other units of the Judiciary, which are also housed in the same facility as the Supreme Court.

- ***Project Status and Schedule:*** The \$51.1 million of general obligation bond funds budgeted for fiscal 2026 replaces \$51.1 million of general funds appropriated for the project in fiscal 2024, which are to be reverted to the General Fund. The capital budget bill preauthorizes \$81.4 million for fiscal 2027 and \$25.4 million for fiscal 2028. Due to issues with the procurement of the construction services contract, the start of construction was delayed from May 2024 to May 2025. This represented the second delay in the start of construction, as the 2023 *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP) indicated that construction would start in November 2023. The previously noted delay has resulted in the total cost of the project increasing by \$11.1 million.
- ***Concerns:*** The original bid for construction on this project was protested. The Department of General Services (DGS) decided to move forward with a second solicitation and officially canceled the first procurement in October 2024 and notified the other bidders of the cancellation as required. DGS is currently preparing a new procurement solicitation for construction services and anticipates posting the new solicitation in May 2025, followed by requesting approval from the Board of Public Works (BPW) no earlier than October 2025. This process will further delay the start of construction currently scheduled for May 2025 to likely October or November 2025, depending on a successful solicitation. As a result, the amount needed in fiscal 2026 is less than the amount budgeted, especially when factoring in the availability of \$32.6 million of previously authorized State funds for the project. **Accordingly, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends reducing the fiscal 2026 budgeted amount by \$25 million to account for the revised schedule. DLS further recommends increasing the amount preauthorized for the 2026 session to ensure that sufficient funds are authorized and preauthorized for BPW to approve the construction contract when presented.**

Summary of Out-year State-owned Projects

- ***New Harford County District Court:*** This project includes the construction of a new facility with onsite parking, access roads, and site improvements in Bel Air for the District Court for Harford County. The existing facility does not contain adequate space for the number of necessary courtrooms or other functions, including attorney conference rooms, officers for various court-related programs, storage, and security considerations that are necessary in a modern courthouse. The Judiciary has acquired three adjacent parcels for this project, and negotiations to acquire a fourth parcel are underway. As a result of the addition of the fourth parcel, the start of the design process has been delayed to December 2027. Construction is now slated to begin in October 2029, and the project is estimated to be complete in April 2032. The estimated total cost of the project is \$124.5 million, including \$16 million previously provided for acquisition costs. **The Judiciary should comment on the current status of the acquisition negotiations for the fourth parcel for this project.**

DE0211 – Judiciary– Capital

- ***Washington County District Court Renovation and Expansion:*** This project involves the renovation of the existing courthouse in Hagerstown as well as the construction of an addition. The existing structure will receive electrical, security, and HVAC infrastructure improvements. Space will be added for a third judge and necessary support services. This project has been on hold for three years, as the contract with the selected architect was terminated. The project now includes a second architect to complete work necessary to hire a contractor. General funds of \$5.3 million previously appropriated for this project were inadvertently reverted during the closeout process for fiscal 2024. The fiscal 2025 operating budget bill includes a deficiency appropriation to replace the funds. A previous preauthorization of \$2.7 million for fiscal 2026 is not included in the capital budget due to the delays in terminating the architect’s contract. The capital budget bill preauthorizes \$3.0 million for fiscal 2027. The estimated total cost of the project is now \$15.3 million.
- ***New Anne Arundel County District Court:*** This project will construct a new courthouse to replace the existing facility in Glen Burnie. The new facility will have space for six courtrooms along with dedicated space for court-related agencies. Issues with the current facility include HVAC failures, water intrusion, and mold. The current facility also does not have separate travel paths for judges and detainees, which is a security risk. This project is currently scheduled for initial funding in fiscal 2027. According to the 2025 CIP, the funding programmed for fiscal 2027 is to be used to acquire land for the new facility. The estimated total cost of the project is \$117.1 million.