
Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee

Additional Pages

March 2025

D17B01
Historic St. Mary's City Commission

Budget Amendment

D17B01.51 Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete 7 new positions and the associated funding increase while leaving funding that would be needed to retain as contractual full-time equivalents. Additional full-time regular positions are not needed until Historic St. Mary's City is open to the public year-round.	- 106,115 GF	- 7.00
Total Change	-106,115	-7.00

P00
Maryland Department of Labor

Committee Narrative

P00G01.07 Maryland Apprenticeship Training Program

Adopt the following narrative:

Efforts to Prioritize High School Registered Apprenticeships: The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) is responsible for approving new registered apprenticeship programs as well as changes to current programs and ensuring compliance with State and federal requirements. Registered Apprenticeships are available to individuals aged 16 and older and may last from one to six years, with most being three to four years and requiring a minimum of 144 hours of classroom instruction per year. The committees request the Maryland Registered Apprenticeship Development Advisory Board include in its annual report to the General Assembly, the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development's (MORAD) efforts to prioritize registered apprenticeships beginning in high school. The report should summarize apprenticeship programs designed for high school students and actions taken by MORAD and MD Labor to support these programs.

Information Request	Author	Due Dates
Annual Report	MD Labor	December 31, 2025

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A01.01 Office of the State Superintendent

Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K-12 Education: The committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) create a workgroup to study AI in K-12 education. The workgroup should study the following:

- implementation guidelines for AI adoption aligned with Maryland's Digital Learning Standards;
- evaluation frameworks to assess the educational impact of AI tools and the AI tools' compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and State privacy laws;
- ethical usage protocols addressing algorithmic bias mitigation and equitable access strategies;
- professional development programs for educators on AI literacy and classroom integration techniques; and
- policy recommendations for AI procurement standards and data governance models.

The workgroup should also conduct a streamlined AI needs assessment with the following components:

- evaluation of local school system AI readiness;
- a catalog of AI utilization patterns;
- analysis of effectiveness metrics; and
- identification of support requirements.

MSDE should submit a final report containing the workgroup's findings and recommendations, including results of the AI needs assessment, to the committees by January 15, 2026.

Information Request**Author****Due Date**

Report of the workgroup on
AI in K-12 education

MSDE

January 15, 2026

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A01.01 Office of the State Superintendent

Report on Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Education and Pilot Program: The committees are interested in the establishment of a pilot program for CDL education and licensing as part of the State’s career and technical education (CTE) curriculum. The committees request that by November 1, 2025, the Maryland State Department of Education submit a report on the feasibility of implementing a CDL pilot program that would include 40 hours of classroom instruction, 6 hours of driving with an instructor, and 60 hours of driving with an adult. The report should include the following information:

- pilot design using the criteria specified above and timeline for implementation;
- program costs including personnel, curricular materials, and instruction;
- feasibility of implementation in all 24 local education agencies (LEA);
- access and availability for student need-based financial assistance;
- opportunities for elective credit and/or integration of this CTE program into a current program of study;
- how dual enrollment students would be accommodated;
- whether a pilot program could allow students in grade 11 and grade 12 grade to earn their CDL when they graduate or turn 18 years old;
- how a pilot program might improve the State’s CDL pipeline of individuals entering driving careers; and
- any liabilities or concerns expressed by LEAs regarding the establishment of a pilot program or a CTE CDL program.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CDL education and pilot program	Maryland State Department of Education	November 1, 2025

R00A01
Headquarters
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A01.01 Office of the State Superintendent

Study on the Feasibility of Establishing a \$25 Per Hour Minimum Wage for Noncertificated Education Support Professionals (ESP): The committees are interested in compensation for ESPs and the impact that current compensation rates have on retaining and recruiting individuals who are interested in careers as ESPs. In response to committee narrative in the 2024 Joint Chairmen’s Report, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provided self-reported data on ESP compensation and job conditions from the 2023-2024 school year that found 57% of ESPs have considered leaving their current role due to their pay and benefits. Similarly, a majority of ESPs reported working more than one job and an increase in their workload due to vacancies or reductions in force. The committees request that by August 1, 2025, MSDE report on the feasibility of increasing the minimum wage for ESPs to \$25 per hour. The report should include the following information for the most recent school year in which data have been collected:

- the number of ESPs by local school system and job classification;
- the number of vacant ESP positions by local school system;
- the number of ESPs statewide that earn less than \$25 per hour, by local school system and job classification; and
- an estimate of the amount that would need to be added to major education aid as specified under § 5-201(l) of the Education Article and/or the target per pupil foundation amount under § 5-201(s) of the Education Article, to establish a mandatory \$25 per hour minimum wage for ESPs statewide.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Study on the feasibility of establishing a \$25 minimum wage for noncertificated ESPs	MSDE	August 1, 2025

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A02.55 Teacher Development

Report on Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs (RTAP): The budget committees request that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), develop a RTAP framework that provides a talent pipeline for the education system. The framework should include:

- a timetable and steps required to design, register, and implement an RTAP program;
- projected staffing needs for MSDE to design and implement the RTAP;
- teacher vacancy trend data across the State;
- recommended licensure areas based on vacancies and conditionally licensed teachers;
- identification of funding sources to offset costs;
- identification of employers, related instruction providers, and collective bargaining units prepared to implement an MSDE-sponsored RTAP;
- recommendations to promote a state-scaled, multi-employer approach to RTAPs; and
- recommendations to promote on-the-job skills-based teacher training.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on registered teacher apprenticeship programs	MSDE MHEC MD Labor	December 15, 2025

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Budget Amendments

R00A02.63 Education Effort Adjustment

Modify the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$9,876,396 contingent upon the enactment of legislation delaying implementation of the collaborative time per pupil amount. , provided that~~
this appropriation shall be reduced by ~~\$9,876,396~~ \$4,884,663 contingent upon the enactment of legislation delaying implementation of the collaborative time per pupil amount.

Explanation: This action restores language from the budget as introduced to reduce funds from the special fund appropriation in the Maryland State Department of Education – Aid to Education – Education Effort Adjustment budget, R00A02.63, contingent on the enactment of legislation delaying the collaborative time per pupil amount but modifies the amount of the reduction to \$4.9 million consistent with amendments to SB 429.

R00A02
Aid to Education
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A02 Aid to Education

Reports on Unassigned Fund Balances: In order to monitor the status of local education agency (LEA) fund balances, the budget committees request that LEAs submit quarterly reports on transfers into unassigned fund balances; the reasons that LEAs were not able to expend available funds; and intended future expenditures of unassigned fund balances. As part of the first quarterly report, LEAs should also identify any policy or target established by the county regarding the percentage of operating expenditures that are allowable in the unassigned fund balance. The budget committees also request that by August 15, 2025, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) develop a template for LEAs to use for the submission of these reports.

Information Request	Author	Due Dates
Reports on unassigned fund balances	LEA MSDE	September 30, 2025 December 31, 2025 March 31, 2026 June 30, 2026

R00A99
Early Childhood Development
Maryland State Department of Education

Committee Narrative

R00A99 Division of Early Childhood

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program Quarterly Reports: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has implemented a series of significant changes under the CCS program. These changes, along with increasing program enrollment, have contributed to higher costs and shortfalls in fiscal 2023, 2024 and 2025. In response to these financial pressures, the department has proposed an enrollment freeze as a cost-saving measure to control program expenditures and align them with available funding. The committees request that MSDE submit quarterly reports with the following information:

- CCS expenditures by fund, including Child Care and Development Fund spending carried over from prior fiscal years;
- fiscal 2026 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;
- 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 *by county and family income levels*; and
- updates on the implementation of the enrollment freeze, including the anticipated savings and how the freeze will affect the program’s budget.

In its September 2025 report, MSDE should include actual data for the CCS program in the final quarter of fiscal 2025 and aggregate fiscal 2025 data. All reports should provide data on a monthly basis for fiscal 2026 year to date.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CCS quarterly expenditure reports	MSDE	September 15, 2025 December 15, 2025 March 15, 2026 June 15, 2026

R14D00/R75T00
St. Mary's College of Maryland

Budget Bill Language

Add the following language to the unrestricted fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses for St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) may not be expended until SMCM submits a report to the budget committees and the St. Mary's County Delegation on actions taken to address the findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) in December 2024. The report shall include how each finding has been addressed, actions taken and planned to be taken to implement recommendations made by OLA, and a timeline for fully implementing all of the recommendations by OLA. In addition, the report shall address other actions planned and taken by SMCM to improve financial management practices. The report shall be submitted December 1, 2025, 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: *A fiscal compliance audit of SMCM released by OLA in December 2024 has raised concerns about the financial management practices at SMCM. This language restricts funds until SMCM submits a report detailing actions taken to address the findings in the audit and other efforts to improve financial management practices.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
<i>Actions taken to address OLA audit findings and improve financial management practices</i>	<i>SMCM</i>	<i>December 1, 2025</i>

R62I00
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Budget Amendments

R62I00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) submits a report to the budget committees providing detail on the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards program with detail separately for the Guaranteed Access Grant and Educational Assistance Grant. The report shall provide data for fiscal 2025 detailing the number of new and renewal awards separately by month for each program; dollar amounts awarded and paid to the institution for new and renewal awardees in each program; the amount of unspent appropriation transferred to the Need-based Student Financial Assistance Fund at the close of the fiscal year; and the average amount of time between when the student accepts an award and when the account of the student is credited and, if different, the average amount of time between when the student accepts an award and payment to the institution. In addition, MHEC shall discuss efforts to notify applicants in a timely manner about the status of the application and the determination of receipt of an award. The report shall be submitted by December 8, 2025, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of 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 details on the Educational Excellence Awards (EEA) program. This language restricts funds pending a report on fiscal 2025 award data and the average amount of time between when a student accepts an award and when the institution receives payment, as well as outreach efforts undertaken to ensure timely notification of receipt of the award.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on data and information of the EEA program	MHEC	December 8, 2025

R62I0010
Student Financial Assistance
Maryland Higher Education Commission

Committee Narrative

R62I00.52 **Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers**

R62I00.53 **Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program**

Adopt the following narrative:

***Outreach to Police Officers and Probation Agents:** The committees are interested in the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s (MHEC) outreach to police officers and probation agents about the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers and Probation Agents and the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program. The committees request that MHEC submit a report identifying communication initiatives for these programs including a targeted communication campaign to advertise these financial aid programs to current and aspiring police officers and probation agents within the State. The report shall provide information on:*

- *how often the website was updated for each program;*
- *the number of high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices notified about each program;*
- *frequency of communication (in-person, phone calls, e-mails, and mail) with high schools, colleges, police departments, and probation offices about each program; and*
- *other communication efforts to reach potentially eligible recipients.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on outreach initiatives to police officers and probation agents for financial aid	MHEC	December 19, 2025

R99E
Maryland School for the Deaf

Budget Amendment

Technical Correction to a Department of Legislative Services Recommendation

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation for the Maryland School for the Deaf shall be reduced by \$633,033 contingent on the enactment of SB 429 or HB 504 delaying the implementation of the collaborative time per pupil amount.

Explanation: This action specifies that \$633,033 in general funds for the Maryland School for the Deaf in R99E01.00 is reduced contingent on the enactment of SB 429 or HB 504 delaying the collaborative time per pupil amount as funds are not required if funds to implement collaborative time are provided in the fiscal 2026 budget.

T00
Department of Commerce

Budget Amendment

Supplemental Budget No. 1

T00F00.01 Managing Director of Business and Industry Sector Development

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>
1. Reduce funds realigned from the Dedicated Purpose Account for the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund due to the State's fiscal condition. This action leaves \$7.5 million for this purpose.	-2,500,000 GF
Total Change	-2,500,000

H00

Department of General Services

Committee Narrative

H00D01.01 Office of State Procurement

Procurement Modernization Efforts: On December 18, 2024, the Governor signed an executive order directing the Department of General Services (DGS) to develop and implement a centralized statewide contract management process in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), in addition to other operational changes to streamline and centralize the procurement process. These activities aim to make the procurement process more efficient and to expand opportunities for minority- and veteran-owned small businesses. The committees are interested in DGS' efforts to establish a more efficient, fair, and competitive procurement system. The committees request that the Office of Procurement within DGS, in consultation with MDOT and DoIT, submit a report on the plan to implement the Executive Order, including:

- plans to consolidate procurement data across State agencies into a single statewide platform;
- efforts to ensure compliance and documentation for participation in the Small Business Reserve (SBR), Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE), and Minority Business Enterprise (MBE);
- activities to increase SBR, VSBE, and MBE participation;
- current methods to track and publish progress towards the State's SBR, VSBE, and MBE goals on a consistent basis;
- how the consolidation of procurement spending across agencies can leverage volume-based pricing incentives and fee-sharing arrangements, including measures to track the use of this approach and resulting cost savings;
- plans to centralize and streamline spend tracking to maximize negotiated savings and fee revenue; and
- the current ability of the eMaryland Marketplace Advantage system to handle the activities and goals of the Executive Order and other activities discussed in this information request.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on procurement
modernization efforts

DGS
MDOT
DoIT

October 1, 2025

F50
Department of Information Technology

Budget Bill Language

F50B04.05 Chief of Staff

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Major Information Technology Development Projects may not be expended until the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) submits a report to the budget committees on any projects undertaken by a unit of State government under a master contract for Statewide Agile Teams approved by the Board of Public Works in fiscal 2025. The report shall include:

- (1) the amount of the contract and the total estimated project cost;
- (2) whether the Secretary has approved the work order or has delegated project oversight and implementation to the unit and has determined that the unit has the internal capacity, including human capital, subject matter expertise, and technical infrastructure, to adequately support the project and program management and responsibility over program activities;
- (3) if the oversight has been delegated, whether the head of the unit has accepted accountability for the oversight and implementation of the project;
- (4) identification of the members of the project management team; and
- (5) an affirmation that as a part of the work order approval that the unit will report to DoIT every four months with project information in the form and manner required by DoIT.

DoIT shall submit reports to the budget committees on July 1, 2025, and December 1, 2025, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second 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 Board of Public Works approved a \$445 million multiple awards for Statewide contracts to provide Agile resources, teams, or a combination to support technology modernization activities and staffing service needs in three functional areas – software engineering resources, software engineering teams bundle, and IT management consulting services on February 25, 2025. This language restricts funds pending reports on the projects undertaken under the master contract.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on projects under the
Statewide Agile Teams master
contract

DoIT

July 1, 2025
December 1, 2025