
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee**

Additional Pages

March 24, 2025

D11A0401
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Budget Amendment

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$50,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of executive direction may not be expended until the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) submits a report indicating it has published the State sign language licensing requirements. In addition, the report shall describe the efforts of ODHH to disseminate this information through the agency website and social media channels, and the main challenges that contributed to the delay in publishing the licensing regulations, and provide an updated timeline for the availability of the licensing portal for public use. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees within 30 days of the publishing of regulations, 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 the 2024 session budget analysis for ODHH, the timeline for the State sign language licensing regulations indicated that the licensing regulations would be published in July 2024, with information disseminated through the ODHH website and social media. However, as of March 2025, the regulations remain unpublished. This language restricts funding until ODHH indicating that it has published the licensing regulations and submits a report to the budget committees outlining the primary reasons for the delay.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on main challenges associated to the delay in publishing licensing regulations	ODHH	Within 30 days of the publication of regulations

D15A05
Boards, Commissions, and Offices
Executive Department

DLS Recommendation Related to Supplemental Budget No. 1

D15A05.05 Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives

	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Positions</u>
Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:			
1. Delete 5 new positions and associated funding added in Supplemental Budget No. 1 for the Office of Immigrant Affairs. These positions can be reclassified from other offices within the Executive Department.	-676,281	GF	-5.00
Total Change	- 676,281		-5.00

E50C
State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Budget Amendment

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$25,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative costs in the Office of the Director may not be expended until the State Department of Assessments and Taxation submits a report to the budget committees on the status of positions that have been vacant for more than one year, including:

- (1) the status of the 4 long-term vacant positions reported as of December 31, 2024, noting candidates' actual or anticipated start dates, if applicable;
- (2) the number of long-term vacant positions as of August 1, 2025, specifying the position titles, class codes, and salaries;
- (3) the number of job postings and announcements made for each position;
- (4) the number of applications received for qualified candidates in response to each posting; and
- (5) the reasons the positions have not been filled within one year of becoming vacant or being created.

The report shall be submitted by September 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: There were 4 positions within the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) that had been vacant for more than one year as of December 31, 2024. This language restricts funds pending a report on the status of these long-term vacancies and efforts to fill long-term vacancies.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on positions vacant for more than one year	SDAT	September 1, 2025

E80E
Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board

Budget Amendment

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 Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board (PTAAB) submits a report to the budget committees on Baltimore City’s case backlog, including:

- (1) the number of backlogged cases as of July 1, 2025;
- (2) the factors that led to the buildup of backlogged cases; and
- (3) the number of vacancies on Baltimore City’s PTAAB as of July 1, 2025.

The report shall be submitted by August 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: The General Assembly is interested in the current status of the backlog of appeals cases in Baltimore City heard by PTAAB. This language restricts funds pending a report on the backlog and board vacancies as of July 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the case backlog in Baltimore City	PTAAB	August 1, 2025

M00F
Public Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of executive direction may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Health submits regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review to amend the local health department (LHD) match requirement and submits a report to the budget committees summarizing the changes to the regulations. The report shall include the following information:

- (1) a summary of the existing match requirement for each LHD;
- (2) a description of the proposed change to the match requirement and regulation text;
- (3) the rationale behind the new requirement percentages and caps;
- (4) comments and feedback from the Maryland Association of County Health Officers on the new requirements;
- (5) the date that the new regulations will go into effect; and
- (6) estimates of the impact of the regulatory change on each jurisdiction, noting which jurisdictions are likely to be most impacted by the change.

The report shall be submitted within 30 days of the submission of regulations, 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: Section 2-303 of the Health – General Article mandates LHDs to provide a match for State funds, defined as a percentage of the annual appropriation set by the Secretary of Health. With recent increases in the annual core public health services formula appropriation, the match levels have increased significantly for some jurisdictions. During the 2025 legislative session, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) committed to amending the regulations to set a maximum match amount of the sum of the annual growth and 10% of the prior years’ local share match requirement, in the case of the legislative appropriation increasing by more than 10% compared to the prior year. This language restricts funding until MDH submits (1) regulations to amend the LHD match requirement to the Joint Committee on Administrative,

Executive, and Legislative Review and (2) a report to the budget committees on the change in regulations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on LHD funding match requirement regulations	MDH	Within 30 days of the submission of regulations

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

M00L01.02 Community Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$5,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program may be expended only for that purpose. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund.

Explanation: Chapters 209 and 210 of 2018 established the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program to fund local behavioral health authorities and core service agencies to provide various crisis services throughout the State. Chapters 209 and 210 and subsequent legislation mandated funding through fiscal 2025. In fiscal 2025, the mandated level was \$5.0 million. Although the mandate ended and the prior subprogram code was no longer used to fund the program, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) indicated it planned to fund the program through another subprogram. This language restricts the funding MDH indicated is for this purpose to be used only for that purpose.

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program: Chapters 209 and 210 of 2018 established the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program to fund local behavioral health authorities (LBHA) and core service agencies (CSA) to provide various crisis services throughout the State. Chapters 209 and 210 require the Governor to include in the annual budget \$3.0 million in fiscal 2020, \$4.0 million in fiscal 2021, and \$5.0 million in fiscal 2022 for the program. Subsequent legislation mandated \$5.0 million annually for the program from fiscal 2023 through 2025. Although the mandate does not apply to fiscal 2026, the Maryland Department of Health indicates that it has set aside \$5.0 million in the fiscal 2026 allowance to level-fund the grant program as a part of the annual grants to LBHAs and CSAs. Because this funding is not budgeted in the grant program budget, as it has been in prior fiscal years, the committees request that the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) submit a report with information tracking spending for this purpose in fiscal 2026, including:

- total funding in the fiscal 2026 budget allocated to behavioral health crisis response grants;
- fiscal 2026 grant award amounts and award dates or anticipated award dates, by grantee and jurisdiction;
- for each grantee, the proposed use of the funds; and
- budget program code and subprogram code where funding is budgeted in fiscal 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program	BHA	September 15, 2025

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Update on the Transition to the New Administrative Service Organization (ASO): Following approximately nine months of transition planning and implementation, the new behavioral health ASO, Carelon, began processing provider reimbursement claims on January 1, 2025. The committees request that the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) submit a report with an update on the transition with data as of June 30, 2025, including:

- the number of providers enrolled in the new ASO;
- the number of enrolled providers who have successfully logged in and submitted claims;
- a description and outcome of outreach efforts to providers who have not logged in or submitted claims;
- the number of claims processed between January 1 and June 30, 2025, by month and the average number of days from claim submission to process claims;
- the total number of outstanding claims to be processed and the average number of days for which claims have been outstanding;
- the amount of reimbursements issued to providers between January 1 and June 30, 2025, by month;
- the total amount of outstanding reimbursements from processed claims to be issued to providers and the average number of days from the date of processing that the reimbursements have been outstanding; and
- a list of issues that have arisen in the first six months of operation and the steps taken to address them.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on ASO transition	BHA	August 1, 2025

M00L
Behavioral Health Administration

Committee Narrative

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Timely Payments to Local Nonprofit Core Service Agencies (CSA): Chapter 155 of 2023 established a State policy requiring State agencies to make payment under specific grant agreements with nonprofit organizations within 37 days of (1) the payment becoming due under the grant agreement or, (2) if later, receiving a proper invoice. Interest accrues at the rate of 9% per year on any amount for which a grant-making entity has received and failed to submit a proper invoice to the Comptroller within 30 days of its receipt. The committees request that the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) submit a report detailing its plan to improve the timeliness of grant distribution to comply with the State policy, including:

- the total number of nonprofit CSAs with which BHA held a grant agreement in each fiscal 2024 and 2025;
- the number and share of nonprofit CSAs with a grant agreement in fiscal 2024 and 2025 for which BHA did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- the number of fourth quarter invoices submitted by nonprofit CSAs in each fiscal 2024 and 2025 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- the number of annual 440 reconciliations submitted by nonprofit CSAs in fiscal 2024 and 2025 that did not meet the required timeframe for distribution of payments;
- a description of the current process to track and monitor the timeliness of payments to grantees; and
- the steps that BHA has taken and plans to take to ensure timely payment distribution moving forward.

Information Request

Author

Due Date

Report on timely payments to local nonprofit CSAs

BHA

January 1, 2026

M00M
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

M00M01.02 Community Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) within the Maryland Department of Health submits a report to the budget committees that provides details on cost containment actions implemented in fiscal 2025 and 2026. The report shall include the following information.

- (1) For the reduction in State-only funded services:
 - (a) the status of implementation and plan for transitioning eligible individuals onto a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver;
 - (b) efforts taken by DDA to conduct outreach and notify participants of the requirement to apply to a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver;
 - (c) the number of individuals who received State-only funded services as of January 1, 2025, and the number of those individuals who had applied to a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver as of October 1, 2025;
 - (d) the number of individuals receiving State-only funded services found eligible and transitioned onto a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver as of October 1, 2025;
 - (e) the number of individuals receiving State-only funded services found ineligible for a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver, including the most common reasons why individuals were ineligible, and the number of individuals not meeting financial requirements and asset tests;
 - (f) the number of individuals found ineligible for a DDA-operated Medicaid waiver who continue to receive State-only funded services;
 - (g) actual spending on State-only funded services in fiscal 2025 and the first quarter of fiscal 2026; and

- (h) estimated spending on State-only funded services for fiscal 2026.
- (2) For the day-to-day administrator category of services:
 - (a) a description of how the day-to-day administrator category of services was moved out of individual and family directed goods and services and the effective date that the action was implemented;
 - (b) the number of participants utilizing day-to-day administrator services and average amount spent for this service per participant;
 - (c) actual spending data on day-to-day administrator services in fiscal 2025 and the first quarter of fiscal 2026; and
 - (d) estimated spending on day-to-day administrator services for fiscal 2026.
- (3) For the Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) program:
 - (a) the number of participants receiving LISS services in the first lottery round of fiscal 2026 and the number of applicants;
 - (b) the average award per participant in the first lottery round of fiscal 2026; and
 - (c) the total amount requested and total amount distributed in the first lottery round of fiscal 2026.

In the report, DDA shall also describe all other cost containment actions implemented or planned in fiscal 2025 and 2026. The report shall include for each action, the expected budgetary impacts by fund type, effect on rates and rate setting, timeline and status of implementation, an update on federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and budgetary impact by county for actions related to the geographical differential rates.

The report shall be submitted by October 15, 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.

Explanation: The fiscal 2026 budget as introduced contains general fund reductions to account for the implementation of various cost containment actions. Sections 20 and 21 of the fiscal 2026 budget add funding to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to restore various cost containment actions. This language restricts funds pending a report providing detailed information on how cost containment actions are being implemented.

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

Report on DDA cost containment
actions

MDH

October 15, 2025

DLS Recommendation

**M00Q01
Medical Care Programs Administration
Maryland Department of Health**

Supplemental Budget No. 1

M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider Reimbursements

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funds for biomarker testing, delaying implementation due to the State's fiscal condition.	- 6,000,000 GF - 9,600,000 FF	
Total Change	- 15,600,000	0.00

M00Q01.10 Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursements

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funds for biomarker testing, delaying implementation due to the State's fiscal condition.	- 2,000,000 GF - 3,200,000 FF	
Total Change	- 5,200,000	0.00

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

M00R01.02 Health Services Cost Review Commission

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administration may not be expended until the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) submits a report to the budget committees on the alignment of incentives between Medicare Advantage plans and hospitals in Maryland under the All-payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) model and efforts to support Medicare Advantage plans operating in underserved communities. The report shall include:

- (1) a status update on approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for HSCRC's proposed program to incentivize Medicare Advantage plans to reduce hospital utilization and the timeline for program implementation;
- (2) details regarding the design of the program, including:
 - (a) the fund source and financing mechanism for incentives;
 - (b) the method for calculating and sharing hospital utilization savings;
 - (c) eligible and participating Medicare Advantage plans and coverage areas;
 - (d) selected interventions to reduce hospital utilization;
 - (e) the ways that the effect on hospital utilization will be measured; and
 - (f) quality measures that will be monitored under the program;
- (3) the distribution of incentives across local jurisdictions and how the program will target incentives for Medicare Advantage plans operating in underserved communities, particularly in areas in which coverage and availability of Medicare Advantage plans has decreased in recent years;
- (4) how the program supports Medicare Advantage plans that have continually operated in underserved communities in recent years; and

- (5) alternative efforts and recommendations for HSCRC and Maryland hospitals to incentivize and collaborate with Medicare Advantage plans under the AHEAD model if federal approval is not granted for the incentive program.

The report shall be submitted by October 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 be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: At the March 2025 HSCRC meeting, the commission proposed a program to align incentives between Medicare Advantage plans and hospitals in Maryland under the AHEAD model. This language restricts funds pending a report on this program, including the status of federal approval, timeline for implementation, design of the program, distribution of incentives across local jurisdictions, and alternative efforts or recommendations to incentivize Medicare Advantage plans if federal approval is not granted. The report shall also provide information on how the program will target incentives for Medicare Advantage plans operating in underserved communities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on incentives for Medicare Advantage Plans under the AHEAD model	HSCRC	October 1, 2025

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Committee Narrative

M00R01.02 Health Services Cost Review Commission

Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities in Hospitals: The committees are interested in the development and expansion of registered apprenticeships for the healthcare workforce, particularly in hospitals. The committees request that the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) submit a report on registered apprenticeships in hospitals in Maryland, including existing registered apprenticeships by occupation and goals to increase and scale these registered apprenticeships. In the report, HSCRC should identify barriers to developing and scaling registered apprenticeship programs in hospitals. Additionally, the report should discuss ways that HSCRC is working with the hospital industry to address the identified barriers and expand registered apprenticeships.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on apprenticeship opportunities in hospitals	HSCRC	December 1, 2025

M00R01
Health Regulatory Commissions
Maryland Department of Health

Budget Amendment

M00R01.03 Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

Amend the following language on the special fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by ~~\$90,000,000~~ \$60,000,000 contingent upon the enactment of legislation to ~~level fund the mandated Blueprint for Maryland's Future Funds for the Consortium on Community Supports program to the FY 2025 appropriation~~ reduce the mandated appropriation for the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund.

Explanation: This action alters a contingent reduction to reduce \$60.0 million in special funds from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund contingent upon the enactment of legislation reducing the mandated appropriation for the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund. The Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund supports grants distributed by the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports.

N00B
Department of Human Services
Social Services Administration

Committee Narrative

N00B00.04 General Administration – State

Adopt the following narrative:

Monthly Data on Out-of-home Placement of Children and Youth: The committees are interested in receiving updates on Child Welfare Services data. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit monthly reports that provide data for each month of fiscal 2025 separately by jurisdiction on:

- child maltreatment for children and youth in out-of-home placements (OOHP) and type of response exercised (investigative and alternative);
- findings for completed investigations;
- children in OOHPs through DHS; and
- in-home family preservation services provided by DHS.

In addition to the report submission, data should be provided in an electronic format subject to concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services. *The report should also provide an update on the Social Services Administration Data Dashboard and include details on when downloadable data will be made available in accessible formats, such as Excel, ensuring that there can be consistent monthly comparisons by preserving historical data, such as offering pre-set reporting options by month.*

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on OOHP of children and youth	DHS	September 1, 2025, and each month thereafter through June 1, 2026

N001
Department of Human Services
Family Investment Administration

Budget Amendment

N00I00.04 Director's Office

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 Department of Human Services submits a report detailing its grants administration process in the Office of Grants Management. This report shall include information on:

- (1) the process and timeline for determining grant awards and notifying grantees of selections for awards under programs for which grantees must apply to participate, including the Maryland Emergency Food Program, the Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and any other program requiring applications;
- (2) the process and timeline for executing grant agreements both for programs under which grantees must apply for participation and grants to specifically identified organizations;
- (3) the process and timeline for distributing funds following the execution of grant agreements;
- (4) the monitoring of grants; and
- (5) efforts that the agency has undertaken or plans to undertake to ensure grant agreements both for annual grants and grants under programs for which grantees must apply are executed within the first quarter of the fiscal year to ensure maximum timelines for grantees to use grant awards.

The report shall include as part of the timelines the average number of days for each related step. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees by October 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.

Explanation: The Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Grants Management is responsible for the distribution of grants to various community organizations through grants

specific to organizations and for programs under which organizations may receive funding but are not set aside for specific grants. The General Assembly is interested in better understanding the grants management process of DHS, specifically through the Office of Grants Management. This language restricts funds pending receipt of a report on the process and timelines associated with executing grant agreements and distributing funds to grantees as well as monitoring efforts and actions taken to reduce processing times.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Grants Management	DHS	October 1, 2025

S00A
Department of Housing and Community Development

Committee Narrative

S00A24.01 Neighborhood Revitalization – Division of Neighborhood Revitalization

Implementation Status of the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program: Chapter 210 of 2024 created the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund to provide rental assistance for eligible student households at community schools. Families may be eligible for assistance under the program if a student in the family is enrolled in a community school receiving funding under the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program and is housed in a rental property where at least one household member is at risk of homelessness. The committees request that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) submit a report on the status of the program’s implementation, including a description of actions taken since the start of fiscal 2025 and actions planned to be taken in fiscal 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Implementation status of the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program	DHCD	October 1, 2025