
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment Subcommittee**

Additional Pages

March 24, 2025

C90G00
Public Service Commission

Committee Narrative

C90G00.01 General Administration and Hearings

Adopt the following narrative:

Apprenticeships within Public Service Companies: The committees are interested in learning about apprenticeships within utility companies. The committees request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) submit a report including the following information:

- existing registered apprenticeships within the utility companies;
- workforce needs that could be met by registered apprenticeships;
- any barriers to creating and expanding apprenticeships; and
- goals for scaling apprenticeships by occupation and industry.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on apprenticeships within the public utilities industries	PSC	November 1, 2025

DLS Recommendation

**C91H00
Office of People’s Counsel**

Supplemental Budget No. 1

Budget Amendment

C91H00.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete 1.0 new position and associated funding provided in Supplemental Budget No. 1. The Office of People’s Counsel has 2 vacant positions as of December 31, 2024. The new position can be reallocated from existing vacancies.	-\$80,532 SF	-1.0
Total Change	-\$80,532	-1.0

D13A13
Maryland Energy Administration

Committee Narrative

D13A13.01 General Administration

Adopt the following narrative:

Promote Battery Storage Capacity: The committees are interested in increasing battery storage capacity for electricity in Maryland. The committees request that the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) provide a report detailing efforts made to increase electric battery storage capacity. The report should include the following information:

- electric battery storage capacity in fiscal 2025;
- efforts made to increase electric battery storage capacity; and
- a comparison of electric battery storage capacity to other states and countries.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on battery storage capacity	MEA	November 1, 2025

DLS Recommendation

D13A13 Maryland Energy Administration

Committee Narrative

D13A13.01 General Administration

Adopt the following narrative:

Usage of Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) Revenues from Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) Transferred to the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA): The fiscal 2026 allowance budget as introduced ~~reflects~~ reflected the transfer of \$180 million of SEIF fund balance to the *Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA)* to be used for implementation of the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. *Supplemental Budget No. 1* realigned \$100 million to the *Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)* and *Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)* from the *DPA* and removed the remaining \$80 million. Of the \$100 million realigned, \$50 million is provided to *MEA* for local government clean energy projects, and \$50 million is provided to *MDOT* for solar energy projects on state government property. The committees request that, contingent on the enactment of legislation expanding the allowable uses of *ACP* for these purposes in fiscal 2026 only, that ~~the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)~~ *MDOT* and *MEA* jointly submit a report outlining the sources, uses and planned uses of this funding. The committees also request *MEA* to submit a report outlining the uses and planned uses of the remainder of the \$90 million of SEIF fund balance transferred to the *DPA* in fiscal 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the usage of SEIF revenues transferred to the DPA	<i>MDOT</i> <i>MEA</i>	December 31, 2025

D21
Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

Budget Amendment

D21A01.03 State Aid for Police Protection

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$45,878,143 of this appropriation made for the purpose of State Aid for Police Protection funding made for the purpose of enhancing public safety aid and increasing funding for the counties and Baltimore City may be distributed only in a manner that allocates funds proportionally based on the number of reported total violent crime offences in the 2023 Maryland Uniform Crime Report. 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: This language requires that the enhanced portion of the State Aid for Police Protection funding be distributed to jurisdictions in proportion to the number of reported violent crimes per the most recent official crime report for the State – the 2023 Maryland Uniform Crime Report.

D80Z01
Maryland Insurance Administration

Committee Narrative

D80Z01.01 Administration and Operations

Efforts to Support Insurance Industry Apprenticeships: The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is responsible for licensing and regulating insurers, insurance agents, and brokers who conduct business in the State and for monitoring the financial solvency of licensed insurers. The committees request that MIA submit a report describing its efforts to support apprenticeship programs within the insurance industry. The report should identify existing insurance apprenticeship programs, noting the positions supported by apprenticeships, as well as barriers to creating new apprenticeships and obstacles to scaling. Additionally, the report should provide details on the number of existing registered apprentices and timeline to scale by occupation, previous data on the number participants in apprenticeship programs, and actions taken by MIA, or planned actions, to support these programs and offer additional apprenticeship opportunities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Efforts to support insurance industry apprenticeships	MIA	December 1, 2025

D80Z01
Maryland Insurance Administration

Committee Narrative

D80Z01.01 Administration and Operations

Report on Rate Assignment by Zip Code: The Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (Maryland Auto) applies an affordability index that caps rates for personal automobile insurance in 55 zip codes to ensure that the agency can meet affordability considerations. The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) has emphasized that affordability does not appear in codified statutes relating to Maryland Auto’s creation and operation. MIA has indicated that the only requirements for Maryland Auto’s rates are established by Title 11, Subtitle 3 of the Insurance Article and that the rates should not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. The committees request a joint report be submitted by Maryland Auto and MIA on the assignment of rates by zip code, noting the impact this rate assignment methodology would have on affordability. This report should discuss areas of agreement between the agencies as well as areas of disagreement. Additionally, the report should describe a way to assign rates by zip code that is recommended by both agencies.

Information Request	Author	Due Dates
Report on rate assignment by zip code	MIA Maryland Auto	October 31, 2025

J00B01
State Highway Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00B01.01 State System Construction and Equipment

Roadwork and Utility Work Coordination: The committees have been apprised of several instances related to utility work that involves the destruction and repair of newly or recently paved roadways and sidewalks, and are interested in ways to minimize the impacts of utility work on road and sidewalk quality. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is requested to provide a report to the budget committees by October 1, 2025, which includes the following:

- a description of how SHA coordinates its road construction/road repair activities with utility companies to reduce the incidence of newly paved roads and sidewalks being torn up by utility work;
- steps that could be taken to further reduce the incidence of newly paved roads and sidewalks being torn up by utility work; and
- impediments (if any) to improvements in this area that would require legislative action to address.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on coordination between road work and utility work	SHA	October 1, 2025

J00B01
State Highway Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendment

J00B01.02 State System Maintenance

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

. provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of modal administration may not be expended until the State Highway Administration submits a report to the budget committees (1) detailing the steps in the process used to approve speed cameras for local governments; (2) listing the average time each step of this process takes; and (3) indicating how the time for approving speed cameras for local jurisdictions can be reduced and specifying any changes that would require legislation to implement. 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: Local governments have expressed frustration at the length of time it takes to get speed cameras approved by the State Highway Administration (SHA). As a key tool in improving road safety, this process should be carried out as expeditiously as possible.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on process and timeline for approving speed cameras for local governments	SHA	October 1, 2025

J00B01
State Highway Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

Renaming Maryland 200: The State Highway Administration (SHA) is requested to provide a report by October 1, 2025, detailing the process by which Maryland 200 could be renamed as Governor Ehrlich Highway.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Process for renaming highway	SHA	October 1, 2025

J00D00
Maryland Port Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00D00.01 Port Operations

Mitigation of Impacts from Dredging Related to Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project: The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is requested to provide a report in conjunction with Trade Point Atlantic (TPA) on the mitigation measures that will be taken to reduce or avoid impacts on the Pleasant Yacht Club and the North Point Yacht Club from dredging operations related to TPA’s Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project. In addition to discussions on mitigating impacts for both clubs, the report should detail either:

1. how the planned dredging operations will be adjusted to preserve the Pleasant Yacht Club property and pier in a manner that will allow the operations of the yacht club to continue onsite; or
2. how the yacht clubs will be compensated in the event the planned dredging operations cannot be adjusted.

The dredging plan is subject to approval by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the report should summarize any changes to the plan, including required mitigation.

The report should be provided to the budget committees by October 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on plans to mitigate the impact of dredging operations on yacht clubs	MPA TPA	October 1, 2025

J00J00
Maryland Transportation Authority
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00J00.41 Operating Program

Adopt the following narrative:

Chesapeake Bay Bridge Vulnerability Assessment and Comprehensive Risk Reduction Plan Implementation: As part of its ongoing investigation into the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, on March 20, 2025, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued, to the 30 owners of 68 bridges across 19 States, including the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), a recommendation to conduct vulnerability assessments to determine the risk levels of these bridges for catastrophic bridge collapse resulting from a vessel collision. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has established guidance for the acceptable risk threshold for critical or essential bridges. NTSB also recommended that if, after a vulnerability assessment has been completed, a bridge is found to be above the acceptable AASHTO risk threshold for collapse in the case of a vessel collision, the bridge owner develop and implement a comprehensive risk reduction plan to prevent the likelihood of a bridge collapse. According to NTSB, the 68 bridges it identifies, which include the MDTA-owned William Preston Lane Jr. Bridge (Chesapeake Bay Bridge), do not currently have a completed vulnerability assessment to determine their risk of catastrophic collapse resulting from a vessel collision with the bridge.

The committees request that MDTA submit a report on the availability of the necessary data needed to complete a vulnerability assessment on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and a timeline for completion in order to determine if the bridge is above or below the acceptable risk threshold set by AASHTO for being at risk of collapse in the case of a vessel collision with the bridge. The report should also include a discussion of the steps necessary for MDTA to develop and implement a comprehensive risk reduction plan for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to reduce the likelihood of a bridge collapse in the case of a vessel collision.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on bridge vulnerability assessment and comprehensive risk reduction plan	MDTA	September 1, 2025

K00A
Department of Natural Resources

Budget Amendments

MARYLAND PARK SERVICE

K00A04.01 Maryland Park Service

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general operating expenses may not be expended until the Department of Natural Resources submits a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that has been signed with a volunteer or emergency responder group to assist in the maintenance of the trails for emergency purposes at the Patuxent River Wildlands within Patuxent River State Park. The MOU shall be submitted by September 1, 2025, and the budget committees and the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the MOU to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of an MOU may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the memorandum of understanding is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: This action restricts Maryland Park Service funding pending the submission of an MOU between the Maryland Park Service and a volunteer or emergency responder group to assist in the maintenance of the trails for emergency purposes at the Patuxent River Wildlands within Patuxent River State Park.

K00A
Department of Natural Resources

Committee Narrative

FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES

K00A17.01 Fishing and Boating Services

Report on Recreational Fishing Data Reporting: Chapter 169 of 2021 required the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a mobile locator application for use by an individual while on the waters of the State to aid in determining the individual’s location, in real time, relative to certain natural resource areas. The committees request that DNR report on the feasibility of expanding the use of this application to include the ability to report the recreational harvest of striped bass and other fish species. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on recreational fishing data reporting	DNR	December 1, 2025

K00A
Department of Natural Resources

Committee Narrative

WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE

K00A03.01 Wildlife and Heritage Service

Report on Enhanced Management of the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary: The committees are concerned that Maryland’s only wildlife management sanctuary is not being sufficiently managed for migratory Canada geese as conditioned as part of the transfer of the property to the State in 1982. It is the intent of the committees that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) take steps to cultivate food plots designed to attract and retain migratory Canada geese on the upper Patuxent River while minimizing visitor disturbance of the Canada geese between October and March of each year, the yearly window when migratory Canada geese can be found in Maryland. DNR is requested to report on its efforts to enhance management of the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in this manner by October 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on enhanced management of the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary	DNR	October 1, 2025

DLS Recommendation

L00A Maryland Department of Agriculture

Supplemental Budget No. 1

Budget Amendment

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete 12.0 new positions and funding in Supplemental Budget No. 1. Positions can be reallocated from existing vacancies for these roles. The reductions are as follows:	0 GF	-12.00
	- 182,730 SF	
	- 24,588 FF	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Services (#49) – 1.00 position;• Animal Health (#50) – 1.00 position (\$34,068 in special funds);• Maryland Horse Industry Board (#51) – 1.00 position (\$35,453 in special funds);• Rural Maryland Council (#52) – 1.00 position;• Forest Pest Management (#53) – 4.00 positions (\$38,207 in special funds);• Plant Protection and Weed Management (#54) – 3.00 positions (\$13,243 in special funds and \$24,588 in federal funds); and• State Chemist (#55) – 1.00 position (\$61,759 in special funds).		
Total Change	-207,318	-12.00

Q00A
Administration and Offices
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendment

Q00A01.01 General Administration

Further provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) Office of the Secretary may not be expended until the agency submits a letter to the budget committees confirming the submission of all reports requested in the 2025 Joint Chairmen's Report due between July 1, 2025, and January 25, 2026, assigned to DPSCS. The letter shall be submitted within 30 days of the submission of the last outstanding report requested during the identified time period, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the letter for review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of the letter may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the letter is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: DPSCS is responsible for submitting responses to the Joint Chairmen's Report (JCR) as requested by the Maryland General Assembly and the budget committees. In fiscal 2025, DPSCS submitted multiple reports after the due date, with some reports submitted more than 90 days late. This action restricts funds until DPSCS submits a letter to the budget committees confirming the submission of all reports requested in the 2025 JCR with due dates between July 1, 2025, and January 25, 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Letter confirming the submission of reports requested in the 2025 JCR	DPSCS	Within 30 days of the submission of the last outstanding report with a due date of January 25, 2026, or earlier.

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Budget Amendment

V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) submits a report to the budget committees and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee by September 1, 2025, regarding certain practices of the department, recidivism data, information about evaluation that DJS performs related to youth outcomes, and the availability of evidence-based services for youth. The report shall include:

- (1) a discussion of departmental practices and operational plans related to the case management system and the reporting of information about certain cases or referrals. DJS shall include its plan for creating or obtaining a case management system that meets its business requirements for effectively managing cases and analyzing youth outcomes. The department shall describe the feasibility of including an inventory of noncontractual community service providers in the current case management system and a potential future system. Additionally, the department will report to the committees whether and when it ceased the practice of resolving referrals at intake due to a failure of the youth or their parent or guardian to appear at an initial intake conference. DJS shall describe any changes made to the case management system to track information about referrals that are resolved at intake, if applicable;
- (2) a description of the importance or weight that a youth's history of legal proceedings has for the Intake Decision Tool and the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument, particularly for youth previously referred to DJS for an alleged felony or previously found delinquent of a felonious offense;
- (3) recidivism data, including measures related to the department's overall and long-term recidivism trends that considers any rereferral to DJS to be recidivism. The data should be provided for at least fiscal 2018 through 2024. The department shall also provide recidivism rates for youth who were referred to DJS through a Child in Need of Supervision complaint and for youth who participated in contractual community-based services;
- (4) information about the department's evaluation of youth outcomes. DJS shall report to the committees whether it regularly and systematically evaluates the performance of contractual community-based service providers based on the outcomes experienced by youth; and

- (5) information about the availability of evidence-based services for youth by local jurisdiction. DJS shall describe any plans it has or recent actions it took to make additional evidence-based services available.

In addition to the report submission, data shall be provided in an electronic format subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services. 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 Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) published an evaluation of DJS on December 16, 2024. During the 2025 session, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; the Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment subcommittee of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; and the House Judiciary Committee held hearings related to the evaluation and invited OPEGA and DJS to discuss the evaluation’s findings. This language restricts \$500,000 pending the submission of information related to departmental practices and risk assessment tools, recidivism data that considers any rereferral to DJS to be recidivism, recidivism data for specific youth populations, the department’s evaluation of youth outcomes for contractual community-based services providers, and the availability of evidence-based services for youth. The report also requires DJS to report information about its current case management system and a potential replacement system.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on departmental practices and tools, recidivism, evaluation, and the availability of evidence-based services	DJS	September 1, 2025

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Committee Narrative

V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary

Adopt the following narrative:

Report on a Community Case Management Specialist (CMS) Apprenticeship Program:

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) has community CMS positions to provide community supervision to youth the court has adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation or aftercare. The committees request that DJS submit a report on opportunities for the department to develop a registered apprenticeship program for its community CMS positions, including the value and design of such a program. To develop the report, DJS should consult with any exclusive bargaining representatives of the employees, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Maryland Department of Labor. The report should include the following:

- a review of apprenticeship programs for similar positions and fields in other states and countries;
- a discussion of how an apprenticeship program would affect current minimum qualification requirements for CMS positions;
- any barriers to implementation of an apprenticeship program, including current laws and/or regulations;
- the resources needed to support an apprenticeship program; and
- the benefits of an apprenticeship program and expected impact on DJS staffing levels.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on a community CMS apprenticeship program	DJS	December 1, 2025

W00A
Department of State Police

Committee Narrative

W00A01.01 Office of the Superintendent

Adopt the following narrative:

Quarterly Reports on Personnel Measures: The Department of State Police (DSP) has maintained a high monthly vacancy rate (over 10.0%) for its regular positions since January 2021, averaging 11.6% between then and January 2025. During this period, the vacancy rate among civilian positions exceeded that of sworn positions. In recent years, the department has also engaged in workforce assessment and performance perspective programs to assess its employees' experiences. The committees request that DSP present a plan for decreasing its vacancy rate in fiscal 2026 and submit quarterly reports on its recruitment plans, hiring measures, retention efforts, attrition rate, and number of employees eligible to retire. Where applicable, information should be provided for both sworn and civilian positions and for each month of the quarter. The quarterly reports should include the following:

- updates on the performance perspectives program, recent recruitment activities, and recent employee retention activities;
- a description of what is planned to address the performance perspectives program, recruitment, and retention in the upcoming quarter, as well as any other plans the department may develop to fill vacancies; and
- the total number of authorized positions, the total number of filled positions, the number of open positions for which the department is actively hiring, the number of job applications received, the number of positions hired, the number of separations, the attrition rate, and the number of employees eligible to retire. All of these measures should be provided separately for sworn and for civilian employees.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly reports on personnel measures	DSP	July 10, 2025 October 10, 2025 January 10, 2026 April 10, 2026