



Report of the
**Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment Subcommittee**
To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

2025 SESSION

Recommendations, Reductions, and
Summary of Action Pertaining to:
House Bill 350

General Assembly of Maryland

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

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Contents

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Recommended Reductions		vii
Legislative and Judicial		
Judiciary	C00A00	1
Office of the Public Defender.....	C80B00	7
Office of the Attorney General.....	C81C	9
Public Service Commission.....	C90G00	10
Uninsured Employers' Fund.....	C96J00	12
Workers' Compensation Commission.....	C98F00	13
Executive and Administrative Control		
Maryland Energy Administration.....	D13A13	14
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy	D21	18
Maryland Cannabis Administration	D23	22
Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority	D29	23
Department of Planning.....	D40W01	24
Maryland Department of Emergency Management	D52	26
Department of Veterans and Military Families	D55P00	29
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund.....	D70J00	30
Maryland Insurance Administration.....	D80Z01	31
Office of Administrative Hearings	D99A11	33
Financial and Revenue Administration		
Comptroller of Maryland.....	E00A	34
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission.....	E17	36
Transportation		
Department of Transportation.....	J00	37
The Secretary's Office.....	J00A01	39

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Page</u>
Debt Service Requirements	J00A04	42
State Highway Administration	J00B01	44
Maryland Port Administration.....	J00D00	49
Motor Vehicle Administration	J00E00	52
Maryland Transit Administration.....	J00H01	53
Maryland Aviation Administration	J00I00	55
Maryland Transportation Authority	J00J00	56
 Natural Resources		
Department of Natural Resources	K00A	59
 Agriculture		
Department of Agriculture.....	L00A	64
 Public Safety and Correctional Services		
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.....		
Administration and Offices	Q00A	70
Corrections	Q00B	78
Community Supervision.....	Q00C	84
Division of Pretrial Detention and Services	Q00T04	88
 Environment		
Department of the Environment.....	U00A	89
Maryland Environmental Service	U10B00	91
 Juvenile Services		
Department of Juvenile Services	V00A	93
 State Police		
Department of State Police	W00A	96
 Sections		
Sections.....		99

Recommended Reductions
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment 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>	<u>Positions</u>
2026 Budget Request						
Judiciary	-\$7,961,681	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$7,961,681	-5.0
Office of the Public Defender	-94,198	0	0	0	-94,198	
Workers' Compensation Commission	0	-554,685	0	0	-554,685	
Maryland Energy Administration	0	-116,518	0	0	-116,518	
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy	-225,341	0	0	0	-225,341	-3.0
Department of Planning	-2,000,000	0	0	0	-2,000,000	
Maryland Department of Emergency Management	-101,264	0	-101,264	0	-202,528	-2.0
MDOT – The Secretary's Office	0	-132,760	0	0	-132,760	-1.0
MDOT – State Highway Administration	0	-853,894	0	0	-853,894	-8.0
MDOT – Maryland Transit Administration	0	-6,622,089	0	0	-6,622,089	-76.0
MDOT – Maryland Aviation Administration	0	-122,476	0	0	-122,476	-1.0
Department of Agriculture	-400,000	-121,456	-2,000,000	0	-2,521,456	-2.0
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Corrections	-700,000	0	0	0	-700,000	
Department of State Police	0	-1,737,994	0	0	-1,737,994	-15.0
Subtotal – Fiscal 2026 Regular Budget	-\$11,482,484	-\$10,261,872	-\$2,101,264	\$0	-\$23,845,620	-113.0
Supplemental Budget No. 1 – Fiscal 2026						
Public Service Commission	0	-228,019	0	0	-228,019	-2.0
Department of Planning	-252,116	0	0	0	-252,116	-2.0
Department of Agriculture	0	-182,730	-24,588	0	-207,318	-11.0
Subtotal – Supplemental Budget No. 1	-\$252,116	-\$410,749	-\$24,588	\$0	-\$687,453	-15.0

iiA:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Higher Ed Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Fiscal 2026 Total Budget	-\$11,734,600	-\$10,672,621	-\$2,125,852	\$0	-\$24,533,073	-128.0
Supplemental Budget No. 1 Deficiency						
Department of Planning	-33,259	0	0	0	-33,259	-2.0
<i>Subtotal – Supplemental Budget No. 1 Deficiency</i>	<i>-\$33,259</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-\$33,259</i>	<i>-2.0</i>
Total Fiscal 2025 Deficiency Budget	-\$33,259	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$33,259	-2.0
Grand Total Budget Bill	-\$11,767,859	-\$10,672,621	-\$2,125,852	\$0	-\$24,566,332	-130.0

MDOT: Maryland Department of Transportation

C00A00 Judiciary

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$687,742 in general funds and 5 new positions shall be abolished. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.

Explanation: This action will abolish 5 new positions in the Judiciary's fiscal 2026 allowance in the following programs: circuit court judges (2); District Court (2); and Clerks of the Circuit Court (1). These positions are being abolished due to a lack of demonstrated need for the new positions.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that this appropriation shall be reduced by \$393,939 in general funds to increase turnover expectancy among new positions. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.

Explanation: This reduction is made in order to increase the turnover rate for new positions within the Judiciary from 5.72% to 25.00%.

C00A00.04 District Court

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

provided that \$8,600,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of providing attorneys for required representation at initial appearances before District Court commissioners consistent with the holding of the Supreme Court of Maryland in DeWolfe v. Richmond 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 back to the General Fund.

Explanation: This language restricts the use of \$8.6 million of the Judiciary's general fund appropriation for the implementation of DeWolfe v. Richmond to that purpose only.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of operating the Appointed Attorney Program may not be expended until the Judiciary submits a report to the budget committees on the costs and utilization of the Appointed Attorney Program, including

C00A00

the number of initial appearances by District and County, the number of attorney shifts in the program by District and County, the waiver rate of defendants waiving their right to counsel at their initial appearance, the total annual appointed attorney shifts and hours scheduled by District, the total number of attorneys enrolled in the program, the total annual costs of the program by District, and the total number of initial appearances with an appointed attorney, private attorney, or public defender representing the defendant by District and County. The report shall be submitted by December 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 to the budget committees.

Explanation: This language restricts funds pending the submission of the annual report on the costs and utilization of the Appointed Attorney Program.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Appointed Attorney Program costs and utilization	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:		
1. Reduce \$670,000 in general funds made for salary increases for contractual personnel to align with increases for State employees. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-670,000	GF
2. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of duplicating equipment expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-400,000	GF
3. Increase contractual employee turnover expectancy to better align with fiscal 2025 levels. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this cut across the Judiciary.	-435,000	GF
4. Reduce \$150,000 made for the purpose of providing attorneys for required representation at initial appearances before District Court Commissioners consistent with the holding of the Supreme Court of Maryland in <i>DeWolfe v. Richmond</i> to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses.	-150,000	GF

C00A00

Total Change -1,655,000 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	1,635.00	1,635.00		0.00
General Fund	264,963,884	263,308,884	-1,655,000	
Total Funds	264,963,884	263,308,884	-1,655,000	

C00A00.06 Administrative Office of the Courts

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce \$175,000 in general funds made for the purpose of travel expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-175,000 GF	

Total Change -175,000 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	255.00	255.00		0.00
General Fund	103,948,814	103,773,814	-175,000	
Special Fund	35,000,000	35,000,000	0	
Federal Fund	1,028,179	1,028,179	0	
Total Funds	139,976,993	139,801,993	-175,000	

Committee Narrative

Annual Court Performance Measures: The committees request a report on the performance of the circuit and District courts, to be submitted by December 15, 2025, with annual court performance measures data for the circuit and District courts.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual court performance measures report	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

C00A00

Problem-Solving Court (PSC) Performance and Funding: The committees request a report on the work of the Judiciary’s PSCs, to be submitted by December 15, 2025. The report should show the funding allocated and performance data for all PSC types in fiscal 2025, including the average length of time that a defendant’s case is active in each type of court, the reasons defendants fail to successfully complete a program, and the average cost per defendant in each type of PSC. The report should also include the anticipated costs by PSC type and location for fiscal 2026 and 2027.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
PSC funding and performance report	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

Judgeship Need for Fiscal 2027: The committees request a report on judgeship needs at the Judiciary to be submitted by December 15, 2025. The report should include a detailed analysis of the Judiciary’s fiscal 2027 judgeship needs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Judgeship needs for fiscal 2027	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

Budget Amendments

C00A00.09 Judicial Information Systems

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce \$500,000 in general funds made for the purpose of communications expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-500,000	GF
2. Reduce \$900,000 in general funds made for the purpose of printing expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-900,000	GF

C00A00

3. Reduce \$1,000,000 in general funds made for the purpose of equipment repairs and maintenance expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-1,000,000	GF
4. Reduce \$1,200,000 in general funds made for the purpose of software license expenses to decrease the funding available for additional software licenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-1,200,000	GF
5. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of duplicating equipment expenses to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-200,000	GF
6. Reduce \$1,250,000 in general funds made for the purpose of contracted Information Technology services to align with fiscal 2024 actual expenses. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.	-1,250,000	GF
Total Change	-5,050,000	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	173.00	173.00		0.00
General Fund	71,938,805	66,888,805	-5,050,000	
Special Fund	6,999,761	6,999,761	0	
Total Funds	78,938,566	73,888,566	-5,050,000	

Committee Narrative

Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP) Status Report: The committees request a report on the Judiciary’s MITDPs to be submitted by December 15, 2025. The report should include actual costs for all projects in fiscal 2025 and anticipated costs for all projects through fiscal 2029, along with status updates for all projects.

C00A00

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MITDP status report	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

Land Records Improvement Fund (LRIF) Balance Report: The committees request a report on the status of the LRIF to be submitted by December 15, 2025. The report should include the fiscal 2025 revenues and expenditures for the fund along with forecasted revenues and expenditures for fiscal 2026 through 2029. The report should also include a breakdown of the expenditures for circuit court offices.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
LRIF balance report	Judiciary	December 15, 2025

C00A00.13 Pre-Trial Home Detention

Private Home Detention Monitoring Reports: The committees request quarterly reports providing data on private home detention monitoring funded by the Judiciary. Each report should provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- the number of defendants enrolled in private home detention monitoring;
- the total funds spent on private home detention monitoring in the prior quarter;
- the total funds remaining for private home detention monitoring; and
- anticipated costs for the remainder of the year.

In addition, the first report should include the Judiciary's guidelines for when invoices need to be submitted by private home detention monitoring providers.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Private home detention monitoring quarterly reports	Judiciary	October 15, 2025 January 15, 2026 April 15, 2026 July 15, 2026

C80B00
Office of the Public Defender

Budget Amendments

C80B00.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of increasing the turnover expectancy for contractual positions to 10.00%.	-22,146 GF	
Total Change	-22,146	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	80.00	80.00		0.00
General Fund	16,117,895	16,095,749	-22,146	
Total Funds	16,117,895	16,095,749	-22,146	

C80B00.02 District Operations

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of increasing the turnover expectancy for contractual positions to 10.00%.	-70,256 GF	
Total Change	-70,256	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	856.50	856.50		0.00
General Fund	132,131,641	132,061,385	-70,256	
Special Fund	514,576	514,576	0	
Federal Fund	1,707,504	1,707,504	0	
Total Funds	134,353,721	134,283,465	-70,256	

C80B00

C80B00.03 Appellate and Inmate Services

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of increasing the turnover expectancy for contractual positions to 10.00%.	-995 GF	
Total Change	-995	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	68.00	68.00		0.00
General Fund	10,923,784	10,922,789	-995	
Total Funds	10,923,784	10,922,789	-995	

C80B00.04 Involuntary Institutionalization Services

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce general funds made for the purpose of increasing the turnover expectancy for contractual positions to 10.00%.	-801 GF	
Total Change	-801	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	28.00	28.00		0.00
General Fund	3,837,448	3,836,647	-801	
Total Funds	3,837,448	3,836,647	-801	

C81C
Office of the Attorney General

Committee Narrative

C81C00.01 Legal Counsel and Advice

Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Final Implementation and Future Costs Report: With final implementation of the ACE program slated to occur in fiscal 2026, the committees request a report on the status of the program at final implementation, including the total cost of the implementation of the program, the status of the coordinated intake program, the total number of participating legal services providers, the total funding granted to each provider in fiscal 2025, the program’s procedures for ensuring adequate coverage in each jurisdiction, the total number of cases in fiscal 2025, the results of all cases in fiscal 2025, and the number of rejected tenants and the reasons for rejection in fiscal 2025. The report should also include a breakdown of all funding available in fiscal 2026 and the total estimated cost to operate the program in fiscal 2026, the estimated cost of operating the program in fiscal 2027, information on all funding available for the program in fiscal 2027, and a recommendation on a permanent funding source for the program.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Final implementation of ACE and future cost report	Maryland Legal Services Corporation	November 15, 2025

C90G00
Public Service Commission

Committee Narrative

C90G00.01 General Administration and Hearings

Arrearage and Termination Data: Given the reduced energy assistance benefits provided by the Department of Human Services Office of Home Energy Programs, high energy prices, and prolonged cold weather in the 2024 to 2025 winter as well as the unavailability of this data currently on the Public Service Commission (PSC) website while the new portal is under development, the committees are interested in receiving data on residential utility terminations and arrearages by month. The committees request that PSC provide residential terminations and arrearages data separately by utility and month in two reports. The first report should cover data from June 2024 through May 2025 and be submitted by July 15, 2025, and the second report should cover data from June 2025 through November 2025 and be submitted by December 15, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Monthly data on residential utility terminations and arrearages	PSC	July 15, 2025 December 15, 2025

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.*

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

C90G00

Supplemental Budget No. 1

C90G00.08 Public Utility Law Judge

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION~~

~~2. C90G00.08 Public Utility Law Judge~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 8 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for two additional positions and operating expenses to support agency workload.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Public Utility Law Judge I Public Service Commission	1.00	90,852	
Assistant General Counsel II, PSC	1.00	90,852	
Fringe Benefits		83,966	
Turnover Expectancy		<u>58,963</u>	
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		206,707	
Object .04 Travel			14,244
Object .09 Supplies and Materials		3,534	
Object .11 Equipment Additional		<u>3,534</u>	
		228,019	
Special Fund Appropriation			228,019

Explanation: Delete 2.0 new positions and associated funding provided in Supplemental Budget No.1. The Public Service Commission has 33 vacant positions as of December 31, 2024. The roles for the new positions can be filled by reclassifying existing vacant positions.

C96J00
Uninsured Employers' Fund

Committee Narrative

Report on Operational Needs: The committees are concerned about the significant increase in operating expenditures due to the procurement of a contract with a third-party administrator (TPA) to perform many core functions of the agency. The committees direct that, in conjunction with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF) produce a report documenting whether a TPA is needed for the entire current five-year contract. The report should also provide an analysis of the agency's current and future staffing needs and consider the possible shift of claim management functions in-house.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
UEF operational needs	UEF DBM	December 1, 2025

C98F00
Workers' Compensation Commission

Budget Amendments

C98F00.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Increase the turnover expectancy to 7.0%. The Workers' Compensation Commission currently has 18 vacant positions, which is much higher than the 3.76 necessary vacancies to meet the fiscal 2026 budgeted turnover rate of 3.27%. At a 7.0% turnover expectancy, the agency will need to maintain 8.05 vacant positions. That number of vacant positions is approximately 10 fewer positions than the agency's current number of vacancies.	-554,685	SF
Total Change	-554,685	0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	115.00	115.00		0.00
Special Fund	24,377,752	23,823,067	-554,685	
Total Funds	24,377,752	23,823,067	-554,685	

D13A13
Maryland Energy Administration

Budget Amendments

D13A13.01 General Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funds allocated for reclassification, which are double budgeted. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) indicates that funds within the reclassification subobject account for the conversion of the contractual positions that took place in fiscal 2024. However, this expense is also accounted within the regular earnings subobject in MEA.	-116,518	SF
 Total Change	 -116,518	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	55.00	55.00		0.00
Special Fund	9,408,771	9,292,253	-116,518	
Federal Fund	3,023,447	3,023,447	0	
Total Funds	12,432,218	12,315,700	-116,518	

Committee Narrative

Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) Revenue, Spending, and Fund Balance: The committees are interested in ensuring transparency in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenue assumptions and spending included in the budget as well as available fund balance and planned usages of revenues. The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management provide an annual report on the revenue from RGGI carbon dioxide emissions allowance auctions, set-aside allowances, and interest income in conjunction with the submission of the fiscal 2027 budget as an appendix to the Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books. The report shall include information on the actual fiscal 2025 budget, the fiscal 2026 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2027 allowance. The report shall detail:

- revenue assumptions used to calculate the available SEIF from RGGI auctions for each fiscal year, including the number of auctions, the number of allowances sold, the allowance price in each auction, and the anticipated revenue from set-aside allowances;

D13A13

- interest income received on the SEIF;
- amount of the SEIF from RGGI auction revenue available to each agency that receives funding through each required statutory allocation, dues owed to RGGI, Inc, and transfers or diversions made to other funds; and
- fund balances for each SEIF subaccount, reflecting funds available to spend for the fiscal 2025 actual accounting for encumbered funds, the fiscal 2026 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2027 allowance.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on revenue assumptions, fund balance, and usage of SEIF revenues sourced from RGGI program auctions	Department of Budget and Management	With submission of the Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding for Energy-related Purposes: The committees are interested in tracking federal funds available to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) from the IIJA and the IRA for energy-related purposes and the status of implementation of programming using these funds. The committees request that MEA submit a report that includes a list of all IIJA and IRA programs for which it has submitted or anticipates submitting an application, the amount of funding available from each program (if funding allocations have been announced), the status of each application submitted or date funding was awarded, and the planned uses for funding from each program.

Additionally, the committees request that MEA provide an update on the implementation of the two home energy rebate programs through IRA funding, the Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebate Program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program. The report should include the status of approval of MEA’s application for funding by the U.S. Department of Energy; program design and implementation activities completed, including outreach to the contractor community, and, if initial rebate awards have been made at the time of report submission; the number of rebates awarded under both programs; the average amount per rebate; and the total amount of rebates awarded. If initial rebate awards have not yet been made at the time of report submission, the report should include an anticipated timeline of when rebates under both programs will be available to the public. The report should also outline contingency plans in the event that federal funds become unavailable.

D13A13

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on federal IJJA and IRA funding and implementation of home energy rebate programs	MEA	December 31, 2025

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Funding in Detail: The committees request that MEA provide a report with details on the department’s funding with submission of the fiscal 2027 budget. The report should include information on the actual fiscal 2025 budget, the fiscal 2026 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2027 allowance. The report should detail for each budgetary program the programmatic activities by fund source within MEA.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MEA funding	MEA	With the submission of fiscal 2027 budget

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 the 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	Department of Budget and Management MDOT MEA	December 31, 2025

Promote Battery Storage Capacity: The committees are interested in increasing battery storage capacity for electricity in Maryland. The committees request that the Maryland Energy

D13A13

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.*

<i>Information Request</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>Report on battery storage capacity</i>	<i>MEA</i>	<i>November 1, 2025</i>

Supplemental Budget No. 1

D13A13.08 Renewable and Clean Energy Programs and Initiatives

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation for local government clean energy projects is contingent on the enactment of legislation expanding the use of Alternative Compliance Payment revenues in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund in fiscal 2026 only.

Explanation: Supplemental Budget No. 1 provides \$50.0 million for local government clean energy projects. Under current law, these funds must be used to directly benefit low- and moderate-income communities or households, overburdened communities, or underserved communities. This action makes the appropriation contingent on legislation authorizing the expanded use of funds.

D21
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

Budget Amendments

Administrative Headquarters

D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$250,000 of the general fund appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) submits a report to the budget committees by November 1, 2025, regarding Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards and funding. The report shall include:

- (1) each grant award made on July 1, 2025, for the fiscal 2026 awards, including the grant number, implementing agency, project title, start date, end date, amount of award, whether the grant is supported with general funds or federal VOCA funds, jurisdiction of implementation, and a brief description/abstract of the grant;
- (2) the total amount of grants awarded from general funds and federal VOCA funds on July 1, 2025;
- (3) the amount of unexpended funds for each open three-year VOCA grant and the reason funds are unexpended, including whether the funds are being held in reserve for future grants;
- (4) for the federal fiscal 2021 and 2022 three-year funding cycles, an identification of the respective amount of funds expended for the purpose of direct provision of services, administration, and that which went unobligated; and
- (5) a comparison of aggregate-level performance measures or outcome measures of the VOCA program for fiscal 2019 through 2025 or as many recent years that GOCPP is able to provide.

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 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 if the report is not submitted.

Explanation: The VOCA grant program is a major source of funding to victim services providers in the State. This language restricts \$250,000 pending the submission of information related to VOCA awards and funding in fiscal 2026. For each open three-year grant cycle (federal fiscal 2023, 2024, and 2025), GOCPP is required to include the amount of currently

D21

unexpended funds, the reason these funds remain unspent, and whether they will be held in reserve. The report is also required to provide further detail regarding the expenditure of funds for the two most recently completed funding cycles – federal fiscal 2021 and 2022. Finally, the report is required to provide a comparison of the program’s aggregate outcomes or performance measures in recent fiscal years.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Annual VOCA report	GOCPP	November 1, 2025

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.*

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

Report on the State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) Enhancement: SAPP funds provide support to local and county police agency operations. The statutory funding formula considers jurisdictional populations, the number of police officers in the recipient agency, and total jurisdictional taxable income. Baltimore City does not receive funding under the original formula in exchange for the State operating the Baltimore City Detention Center. In each year from fiscal 2023 through 2025, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) received an additional \$45,878,143 for an enhancement to SAPP. In each year, the enhancement funds were allocated to jurisdictions, including Baltimore City, based on a share that corresponded with the most recently available violent crime data. The committees request that GOCPP submit a report describing, separately by year for fiscal 2023 through 2025, the amount

D21

of funding awarded under the formula and the enhancement in each jurisdiction as well as how much SAPP funding was actually spent. To the extent that the jurisdictions may have used enhancement funding differently than funding is used under the SAPP formula, the report should also describe these purposes for each jurisdiction in fiscal 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the SAPP enhancement	GOCPP	November 1, 2025

Budget Amendments

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

D21A03.01 Victim Services Unit

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$225,341 in general funds are reduced and the following 3 new regular positions are deleted: N2617703; N2617704; and N2617705.

Explanation: This action reduces general fund expenditures and 3.0 new positions in the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy’s fiscal 2026 budget due to the availability of vacant positions, which could be reclassified to support these activities.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration may not be expended until the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy submits the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Fiscal 2025 Annual Report to the budget committees. The report shall include information about the agency’s implementation of Chapter 705 of 2024 and indicate whether additional support from the General Fund may be required in fiscal 2026 to ensure a balance in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. The report shall be submitted by November 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: Though the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) is required to submit this report, Chapter 705 of 2024 makes alterations to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) program, with most provisions taking effect July 1, 2025. The

D21

legislation also authorizes the Governor for fiscal 2026 and each year thereafter to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) that is adequate to ensure a balance in the fund. The provision authorizing an appropriation to CICF takes effect July 1, 2024. This report will provide the committees with information about fiscal 2025 claims and the CICF balance prior to the 2026 legislative session.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
CICB fiscal 2025 annual report	GOCPP	November 1, 2025

D23
Maryland Cannabis Administration

Budget Amendments

D23A01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

. provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) submits a report to the budget committees that details MCA’s community engagement efforts with neighborhood and community groups, local government officials, and private business impacted by the development of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation cannabis incubator facility capital project. 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 be canceled if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in learning more about the Maryland Economic Development Corporation cannabis incubator facility project and MCA’s engagement with the community and other stakeholders regarding this capital project.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on cannabis incubator project	MCA	September 1, 2025

D29

Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority

Committee Narrative

D29A01.01 Administration

Pimlico and Training Facility Capital Construction Update: The Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority (MTROA) is authorized to implement Pimlico Plus, which consolidates thoroughbred horse racing at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City. The plan is to renovate Pimlico and purchase a training facility to support Pimlico so that the facilities are ready for the 2027 racing season. To support this, the Racing and Community Development Financing Fund was created and has an estimated \$527 million available for capital projects. MTROA should update the committees on status of Pimlico renovations and the training facility construction by August 29, 2025, and by December 19, 2025. For each project, this update should include (1) how far along design documents are; (2) when construction is scheduled to begin or when it began; (3) how long it will take to complete construction; (4) when the facilities will be ready to operate; and (5) when the facility will need to be done to begin thoroughbred horse racing in Pimlico in 2027.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Pimlico and training facility capital construction update	MTROA	August 28, 2025 December 19, 2025

D40W01
Department of Planning

Supplemental Budget No. 1 – Fiscal 2025 Deficiency

D40W01.04 Planning Coordination

Strike the appropriation for the purposes indicated:

~~DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING~~

~~20. D40W01.04 — Planning Coordination~~

~~To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal year 2025 to provide funds for two positions to support the work of CH 213 of 2024 and the Permitting Council.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Administrator IV	1.00	95,533
GIS Analyst Lead/Advanced	1.00	74,727
Fringe Benefits		50,470
Turnover		188,471
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		33,259

~~General Fund Appropriation~~ ~~33,259~~

Explanation: This action deletes new positions and associated funding provided in Supplemental Budget No. 1. The agency has sufficient vacancies to fill these roles.

Supplemental Budget No. 1

D40W01.04 Planning Coordination

Strike the appropriation for the purposes indicated:

~~21. D40W01.04 — Planning Coordination~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 22 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for two positions to support the work of CH 213 of 2024 and the Permitting Council.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Administrator IV	1.00	95,533
GIS Analyst Lead/Advanced	1.00	74,727
Fringe Benefits		80,856

D40W01

Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	252,116
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General Fund Appropriation	252,116
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Explanation: This action deletes new positions and associated funding provided in Supplemental Budget No. 1. The agency has sufficient vacancies to fill these roles.

Budget Amendments

D40W01.12 Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce funding for the Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit program's small commercial tax credits.	-2,000,000	GF
 Total Change	 -2,000,000	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	22,000,000	20,000,000	-2,000,000	
Total Funds	22,000,000	20,000,000	-2,000,000	

D52
Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Committee Narrative

D52A01.01 Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund: In total, only three counties have submitted applications for funding from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management’s (MDEM) Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (RMRLF) since it was established in calendar 2021. The RMRLF was established to fund local projects with State funds and to receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (STRLF) program. Because MDEM has stated that the reason for the limited number of applications could be that local governments do not have the expertise or resources to develop a project proposal and application, the committees are interested in what resources MDEM can provide to assist local governments with applying for RMRLF and STRLF funding. The committees request that MDEM submit an update on the status of the RMRLF, including:

- the status of STRLF awards;
- descriptions of activities and communications at and between MDEM and local emergency management departments regarding funding opportunities;
- descriptions of technical assistance and other support MDEM offers local governments to prepare applications;
- a list of project funding applications submitted for federal and RMRLF awards, including total estimated cost and amounts requested and awarded for each project and by jurisdiction; and
- the special fund revenue and repayment schedules associated with existing loans made through the RMRLF.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the RMRLF	MDEM	July 1, 2025

State and Local Cybersecurity Efforts: The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is jointly managed federally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) receives the money and disburses it to local jurisdictions. In November 2024, MDEM issued a report summarizing how the SLCGP money from federal fiscal 2022 was awarded. The

D52

committees request that MDEM submit a report that provides the following information for federal fiscal 2023 and 2024:

- SLCGP grants awarded by jurisdiction and remaining unallocated balance;
- nonfederal match expenditures by use;
- descriptions of requested projects, requested funding amounts, and actual funding awards;
- a plan for the use of any remaining unallocated funds; and
- a description of the need for further State-match funding beyond fiscal 2026.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
SLCGP information for federal fiscal 2023 and 2024	MDEM	November 1, 2025

Budget Amendments

D52A01.04 State Disaster Recovery Division

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for 2 new positions (PINs 2617548 and 2617549). The Maryland Department of Emergency Management had 20.0 vacant positions as of December 31, 2024, and should reclassify 2 vacant positions instead of adding 2 new positions.	-101,264 GF -101,264 FF	-2.00
Total Change	-202,528	-2.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	2.00	0.00		-2.00
General Fund	1,000,000	898,736	-101,264	
Federal Fund	101,264	0	-101,264	
Total Funds	1,101,264	898,736	-202,528	

D52

Committee Narrative

Disaster Relief for Businesses: The committees request that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), in consultation with the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, submit a report on disaster relief for businesses in Maryland. In the report, MDEM and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce should study and make recommendations regarding:

- the State’s established policies and procedures to respond to natural disasters that impact businesses in the State;
- private sector strategies that may be utilized to respond to natural disasters that impact businesses; and
- the efficacy of establishing a private sector program to assist businesses in recovery efforts following a natural disaster.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on disaster relief for businesses	MDEM	December 1, 2025

D55P00
Department of Veterans and Military Families

Committee Narrative

D55P00.05 Veterans Home Program

Quarterly Reports on Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) Facility Operations, Staffing, and Federal Ratings: The Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) oversees the operation of CHVH, the only assisted-living and skilled-nursing care for veterans and their spouses in the State. The committees are interested in how the new management contractor operates CHVH and its efforts on increasing staffing and residency numbers. Additionally, the committees would like to continue to monitor the low ratings from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) surrounding nursing home facility performance. The committees request that DVMF submit quarterly reports in collaboration with the CHVH contractor on the progress of CHVH’s operations, census numbers, staffing levels, efforts to increase census and staffing numbers, the number of resident complaints, and resident complaints by type of complaint, as well as any report, rating, or fine from CMS. In each quarterly report, the report should note the period covered by the data and the corresponding dates.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on status of CHVH operations, staffing, and federal ratings	DVMF	July 1, 2025 October 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 April 1, 2026

D55P00.11 Outreach and Advocacy

Report on the Maryland Joins Forces (MJF) Initiative and Its Progress: MJF is a new initiative that was launched in November 2023. This initiative focuses on five main areas: employment; food and housing insecurity; education; health and wellness; and volunteer services. The committees are interested in monitoring the progress of this initiative and the Department of Veterans and Military Families’ (DVMF) plans to address the five focus areas identified. The committees request DVMF to submit a report highlighting the number of veterans and military families served by this initiative, including the number of veterans and military families who actually benefitted from this initiative, its partnerships with other organizations, and activities conducted through this initiative. The report should also include information on the effectiveness and challenges in administering this initiative.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the MJF initiative and its progress	DVMF	December 1, 2025

D70J00
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund

Committee Narrative

D70J00.42 Insured Division

Quarterly Financial Statements for Insured and Uninsured Divisions: Annually, the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (Maryland Auto) provides end-of-year financial statements, including revenue, expenditure, and surplus figures for the closed-out, preceding year; estimates for the current year beginning at closeout; and projections for the immediate year ahead. Most revenue is derived from premiums in the Insured Division and a mandated appropriation of uninsured motorist fines under §17-106 of the Transportation Article for the Uninsured Division. However, both divisions derive revenue from investment dividends, which depend on investment portfolio decisions as well as stock market conditions. Comparisons of estimates to closeout and projections to end-of-year estimates suggest limited ability to forecast financial conditions for the full year. Given ongoing concerns about the financial stability of the agency and surplus levels in both divisions, the committees request quarterly reports with updated financial statements and fund balances for both divisions. Additionally, in each quarterly report, Maryland Auto should include discussions of potential shortfalls, rate increases, dates of any actual or projected rate increases, estimated amounts to be collected from actual or projected rate increases, and data regarding policy counts. In each quarterly report, Maryland Auto should also discuss estimated and actual amounts collected from the assessment occurring in calendar 2025 as well as any other potential assessments. The first report should cover data for the first two quarters of calendar 2025, and each subsequent report should cover the prior quarter.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly financial statements for Insured Division and Uninsured Division	Maryland Auto	July 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 March 15, 2026 May 15, 2026

D80Z01
Maryland Insurance Administration

Committee Narrative

D80Z01.01 Administration and Operations

Insurance Tracking System Project Status: After significant delays beginning in calendar 2020, active development of the Insurance Tracking System project is underway. The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) has begun Phase 1 of development in which there are four releases planned, with two releases anticipated to be completed as of January 2025. The fiscal 2026 allowance includes \$7.7 million for continued Insurance Tracking System project development. In order to continue monitoring this project and to be informed of any further delays or cost increases, the committees request that MIA submit initial and follow-up reports to update the committees, including:

- a summary of progress made on the project in the previous two quarters and projected tasks to be completed in the following two quarters, including a list of all identified project development benchmarks and target dates and actual completion dates for each major benchmark;
- actual project spending over the previous two quarters; and
- any updates to the estimated total project cost or anticipated project timeline.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Insurance Tracking System	MIA	July 10, 2025
Major Information		January 10, 2026
Technology Development		
Project status		

Insurance Fraud Investigation Status: The Insurance Fraud Division within the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is responsible for investigating complaints relating to alleged insurance fraud committed by insurance companies, insurance producers, or consumers. Previously, the division had tracked referrals investigated and referred for criminal prosecution and referrals investigated and charged. The division has updated the methodology for tracking these measures with a tiered system of referrals. As of March 10, 2025, the division has not provided any referral data using the new tiered system for fiscal 2025 or previous fiscal years. Given that data using the tiered system has not been published, the committees request that MIA submit a report containing updated performance data for the Insured Fraud Division under the new tiered system, including the percentage and number of cases referred for charges by tier as well as the number of prosecutions by tier.

D80Z01

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Insurance fraud investigation status	MIA	October 1, 2025

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 Date
<i>Report on rate assignment by zip code</i>	<i>MIA Maryland Auto</i>	<i>October 31, 2025</i>

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
<i>Efforts to support insurance industry apprenticeships</i>	<i>MIA</i>	<i>December 1, 2025</i>

D99A11
Office of Administrative Hearings

Committee Narrative

D99A11.01 General Administration

Alternative Dispute Resolution Techniques Usage Measures: The committees request that the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) begin including additional measures regarding the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques in the agency’s annual Managing for Results (MFR) submission. The measures should include a list of case types for which ADR techniques may be utilized, the percentage of each case type where ADR is requested and where cases are resolved with ADR techniques, the average length of time from receipt of an appeal to the conclusion of the appeal when ADR is requested and leads to a settlement, and the average length of time from receipt of appeal to conclusion in cases for which ADR techniques are not utilized.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
ADR techniques usage measures	OAH	With the fiscal 2027 MFR submission

E00A
Comptroller of Maryland

Committee Narrative

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

E00A01.01 Executive Direction

~~**Requirements to Accept Cryptocurrency Payments:** The committees request that the Comptroller of Maryland submit a report on the feasibility of the agency to receive payments for taxes, fees, and fines in the form of cryptocurrencies. The report should discuss how the Comptroller could begin accepting such payments, including the hardware or software that would be needed, cybersecurity requirements, and any other necessary provisions. The report should also describe the potential timeline, budgetary impacts, and any challenges or considerations for expanding tax, fee, and fine collection to include cryptocurrencies.~~

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on requirements to accept cryptocurrency payments	Comptroller of Maryland	August 1, 2025

~~**Baby Bond Accounts:** Baby bonds are government funded accounts that are established at a child's birth and provide money for future asset building investments such as college education and home purchases. The committees request that the Comptroller of Maryland submit a report on baby bond accounts, including:~~

- ~~● the feasibility and fiscal impact on Maryland of implementing a State baby bond account program;~~
- ~~● current baby bond programs operated in other jurisdictions and their eligibility requirements;~~
- ~~● the recommended State entity to administer a State baby bond account program and how that entity may implement the program;~~
- ~~● the estimated costs for the State, including funding options; and~~
- ~~● recommended eligibility criteria for participation in a State baby bond account program.~~

~~The report should also discuss the current economic, social, and political factors that may affect a baby bond account program's implementation, including information on how the program may close wealth gaps in the State and help Marylanders:~~

E00A

- ~~pay for college;~~
- ~~purchase homes; and~~
- ~~start businesses.~~

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on State baby bond accounts	Comptroller of Maryland	November 1, 2025

E17
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission

Committee Narrative

Managing for Results (MFR) Measures for Cannabis Violations and Confiscated Contraband: Chapters 254 and 255 of 2023 required the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) to carry out inspections of retail businesses selling cannabis products to identify violations of licensing and registration laws for cannabis business in Maryland. ATCC’s annual MFR submission includes indicators for the number of tobacco and alcohol retailer inspections, violations of law found, and amount of contraband confiscated by ATCC agents. While ATCC has added performance measures for the number of unlicensed cannabis inspections and the number of compliance inspections conducted targeting underage sales, no measures were added as indicators for violations found or amount of contraband confiscated. The committees request that ATCC include additional measures for the number of cannabis violations found and the amount of confiscated contraband, consistent with measures reported for tobacco and alcohol, in the MFR submission with the fiscal 2027 budget.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MFR measures for cannabis violations and confiscated contraband	ATCC	With submission of the fiscal 2027 budget

J00
Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Further provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that projects and funding levels appropriated for capital projects, as well as total estimated project costs within the Consolidated Transportation Program, shall be expended in accordance with the plan approved during the legislative session. The department shall prepare a report to notify the budget committees of the proposed changes in the event that the department modifies the program to:

- (1) add a new project to the construction program or development and evaluation program meeting the definition of a “major project” under Section 2-103.1 of the Transportation Article that was not previously contained within a plan reviewed in a prior year by the General Assembly and will result in the need to expend funds in the current budget year; or
- (2) change the scope of a project in the construction program or development and evaluation program meeting the definition of a “major project” under Section 2-103.1 of the Transportation Article that will result in an increase of more than 10% or \$1,000,000, whichever is greater, in the total project costs as reviewed by the General Assembly during a prior session.

For each change, the report shall identify the project title, justification for adding the new project or modifying the scope of the existing project, current year funding levels, and the total project cost as approved by the General Assembly during the prior session compared with the proposed current year funding and total project cost estimate resulting from the project addition or change in scope.

Further provided that notification of project additions, as outlined in paragraph (1) above; changes in the scope of a project, as outlined in paragraph (2) above; or moving projects from the development and evaluation program to the construction program shall be made to the General Assembly 45 days prior to the expenditure of funds or the submission of any contract for approval to the Board of Public Works.

Explanation: This annual budget bill language requires the department to notify the budget committees of proposed changes to the transportation capital program that will add a new project that was not in the fiscal 2025 to 2030 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) or will increase a total project’s cost by more than 10%, or \$1 million, due to a change in scope. Reports are to be submitted with the draft and final versions of the CTP with each using the 2025 session CTP as the basis for comparison. In addition, notification is required as needed throughout the budget year if certain changes to projects are made.

J00

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Capital budget changes from one CTP version to the next	Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)	With draft CTP With final CTP
Capital budget changes throughout the year	MDOT	45 days prior to the expenditure of funds or seeking Board of Public Works approval

J00A01
The Secretary's Office
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

J00A01.01 Executive Direction

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for a new administrator V position. The Secretary's Office had 40 vacant positions as of January 1, 2025, and should reclassify a vacant position instead of adding a new one.	-132,760 SF	-1.00
Total Change	-132,760	-1.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	310.50	309.50		-1.00
Special Fund	106,813,644	106,680,884	-132,760	
Total Funds	106,813,644	106,680,884	-132,760	

Committee Narrative

Purple Line Security Cooperation: The Maryland Transit Administration will be responsible for providing law enforcement for the Purple Line Light Rail and will have to stand up a unit. The fiscal 2026 budget as introduced included over 70 positions to begin this process. Four stations on the Purple Line, however, will have connections to Metrorail lines and stations operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which has its own police force responsible for providing law enforcement for WMATA facilities. The budget committees request that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) develop a memorandum of understanding or other contractual arrangement to allow for WMATA to provide law enforcement services for stations or segments of the Purple Line in areas where it is already patrolling. MDOT should provide a report to the budget committees by December 1, 2025, that details the progress of this effort, discusses any issues that need to be addressed to make the effort successful, and provides an estimate of the savings that could be achieved through such an arrangement.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on efforts to develop a security cooperation agreement with WMATA for the Purple Line	MDOT	December 1, 2025

J00A01

Budget Amendments

J00A01.02 Operating Grants-In-Aid

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that no more than \$6,951,128 of this appropriation may be expended for operating grants-in-aid, except for:

- (1) any additional special funds necessary to match unanticipated federal fund attainments;
or
- (2) any proposed increase either to provide funds for a new grantee or to increase funds for an existing grantee.

Further provided that no expenditures in excess of \$6,951,128 may occur unless the department provides notification to the budget committees to justify the need for additional expenditures due to either item (1) or (2) above, and the committees provide review and comment or 45 days elapse from the date such notification is provided to the committees.

Explanation: This annual language caps the level of special funds provided for operating grants-in-aid. The cap may be increased to match unanticipated federal dollars or to provide new or expanded grant funding upon notification to the budget committees.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Explanation of need for additional special funds for operating grants-in-aid	Maryland Department of Transportation	45 days prior to expenditure

J00A01.03 Facilities and Capital Equipment

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that no funds may be expended by the Secretary's Office for any capital project or grant with a total project cost in excess of \$500,000 that is not currently included in the fiscal 2025 to 2030 Consolidated Transportation Program, except as outlined below:

- (1) the Secretary shall notify the budget committees of any proposed capital project or grant with a total cost in excess of \$500,000, including the need and justification for the project and its total cost; and

J00A01

(2) the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment on the proposed capital project or grant.

Explanation: This language provides legislative oversight of capital projects and grants exceeding \$500,000 that are not listed in the current Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Notification of the intent to fund a capital project or grant exceeding \$500,000 that is not listed in the current CTP	Maryland Department of Transportation	45 days prior to expenditure

Supplemental Budget No. 1

J00A01.03 Facilities and Capital Equipment

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that this appropriation for the purpose of implementation of the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan is contingent on the enactment of legislation expanding the use of Alternative Compliance Payment revenues in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund in fiscal 2026 only.

Explanation: This action makes the special fund appropriation in Supplemental No. 1 for solar energy projects contingent on legislation authorizing the expanded use of the funds.

J00A04
Debt Service Requirement
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Consolidated Transportation Bonds may be issued in any amount, provided that the aggregate outstanding and unpaid balance of these bonds and bonds of prior issues may not exceed \$2,863,795,000 as of June 30, 2026. The total aggregate outstanding and unpaid principal balance of nontraditional debt, defined as any debt instrument that is not a Consolidated Transportation Bond or a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bond issued by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), exclusive of debt for the Purple Line Light Rail Project, may not exceed \$820,420,000 as of June 30, 2026. The total aggregate outstanding and unpaid principal balance on debt for the Purple Line may not exceed \$2,506,171,000 as of June 30, 2026. Provided, however, that in addition to the limits established under this provision, MDOT may increase the aggregate outstanding unpaid and principal balance of Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt so long as:

- (1) MDOT provides notice to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee stating the specific reason for the additional issuance and providing specific information regarding the proposed issuance, including information specifying the total amount of Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt that would be outstanding on June 30, 2026, and the total amount by which the fiscal 2026 debt service payment for all Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt would increase following the additional issuance; and
- (2) the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee have 45 days to review and comment on the proposed additional issuance before the publication of a preliminary official statement. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee may hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed increase and shall signal their intent to hold a hearing within 45 days of receiving notice from MDOT.

Explanation: Section 3-202 of the Transportation Article requires the General Assembly to establish the maximum debt outstanding for CTBs each year in the budget bill. The level is based on the outstanding debt as of June 30, 2024, plus projected debt to be issued during fiscal 2025 and 2026 in support of the transportation capital program. For nontraditional debt, this language limits the amount of debt outstanding at the end of fiscal 2026, exclusive of debt issued for the Purple Line Light Rail Transit project, to the total amount that was outstanding from all previous nontraditional debt issuances as of December 31, 2024, plus anticipated issuances of \$75 million for a new fare collection system for the Maryland Transit Administration. Debt outstanding for the Purple Line Project is capped at the projected maximum debt outstanding level that will occur during the construction phase of the Purple Line Project. The language allows MDOT to

J00A04

increase the amount of CTB debt or nontraditional debt outstanding in fiscal 2026 by providing notification to the budget committees regarding the reason that the additional debt is required.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Justification for increasing CTB debt or nontraditional debt outstanding	MDOT	45 days prior to publication of a preliminary official statement

Add the following language:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) shall submit with its annual September and January financial forecasts information on:

- (1) anticipated and actual nontraditional debt outstanding as of June 30 of each year; and
- (2) anticipated and actual debt service payments for each outstanding nontraditional debt issuance from fiscal 2025 through 2035.

Nontraditional debt is defined as any debt instrument that is not a Consolidated Transportation Bond or a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bond; such debt includes, but is not limited to, Certificates of Participation; debt backed by customer facility charges, passenger facility charges or other revenues; and debt issued by the Maryland Economic Development Corporation or any other third party on behalf of MDOT.

Explanation: The General Assembly is interested in monitoring the use of nontraditional debt by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). The information provides the budget committees with additional information on the usage and annual costs of nontraditional debt.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Nontraditional debt outstanding and anticipated debt service payments	MDOT	With the September forecast With the January forecast

J00B01
State Highway Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00B01.01 State System Construction and Equipment

Old Georgetown Road (MD 187) Bike Lanes: The committees request that the State Highway Administration (SHA) provide the following information regarding the bike lanes on Old Georgetown Road (MD 187) between Tilden Lane and West Cedar Lane:

- a detailed analysis of any cut-through traffic impacts on surrounding neighborhood streets as a result of the bike lanes;
- northbound and southbound travel times during both peak and off-peak hours, including travel times for emergency and police vehicles;
- bike lane utilization counts;
- year-over-year data for crash statistics from March 15 to August 1 from 2018 to 2025 specifying the type of crash;
- specific crash data for segments of the bike lanes;
- vehicle volume counts for northbound and southbound during both peak and off-peak hours;
- an analysis of the impact of the lanes on the sidewalks, including pedestrian usage with any accompanying data during peak and off-peak hours;
- information about communications with first responders and any impact of the bike lanes on first responders;
- how the bike lanes are addressed during winter weather, including how they performed during winter 2024 through 2025;
- cost information for maintenance or other fiscal impact of maintaining the bike lanes in fiscal 2024 and year-to-date 2025; and
- an analysis of pedestrian activity during both peak and off-peak hours.

SHA is requested to submit this information by October 1, 2025.

J00B01

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Information related to bike lanes on Old Georgetown Road (MD 187)	SHA	October 1, 2025

Addressing Road and Bridge Safety: The committees request that the State Highway Administration (SHA) submit a report by December 1, 2025, answering the following questions:

With respect to bridges:

- What is the plan to address the 22 bridges rated “poor” and to keep the I-795 bridges (70% of which have components rated “fair”) from deteriorating?
- Given the lack of funding needed to fully fund all bridge projects, what process will be used to prioritize use of available funding?

With respect to roads and highways:

- How is the need to resurface a road determined and what is the average lifecycle for pavement on heavily traveled roads?
- How are road resurfacing and repair funding allocations among regions of the State determined by road type?
- Is lack of funding impacting the materials or methods being used for resurfacing from what has typically been used in the past and/or would be considered best practices? If so, how does this impact the life of the resurfaced road?

With respect to work zone safety:

What have the results been of increased fines for work zone violations with respect to the number of fines and total revenue collected by month?

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on road and bridge safety	SHA	December 1, 2025

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*

J00B01

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 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.*

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

Budget Amendments

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. As a key tool in improving road safety, this process should be carried out as expeditiously as possible.*

J00B01

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

Amendment No. _____

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for 8 new positions (PINs: J00B01089187; J00B01089190; J00B01089191; J00B01089192; J00B01089193; J00B01089194; J00B01089195; J00B01089196). The State Highway Administration had 210 vacant positions as of January 1, 2025, and should reclassify positions instead of adding new ones.	-853,894 SF	-8.00
 Total Change	 -853,894	 -8.00

	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	1,366.50	1,358.50		-8.00
Special Fund	337,299,097	336,445,203	-853,894	
Federal Fund	29,304,771	29,304,771	0	
Total Funds	366,603,868	365,749,974	-853,894	

Committee Narrative

Adopt-a-Road Program: The committees request that the State Highway Administration (SHA) provide the following information regarding invasive vines/weeds alongside State highways:

- the extent to which insecticides/pesticides are used to kill invasive vines/weeds, including the preferred insecticides/pesticides being used;
- current methods undertaken by SHA to remove invasive vines/weeds on State highways;

J00B01

- the role an Adopt-a-Road volunteer program could have to reduce or eradicate invasive vines/weeds along State highways;
- the amount of funds expended in fiscal 2023 and 2024 on activities related to the reduction or eradication of invasive vines/weeds along State highways, including a breakout of the funds expended for the purchase of insecticides/pesticides used to reduce or eradicate invasive vines/weeds along State highways; and
- any available crash data related to crashes in which vine-infested and/or dead trees were a contributing factor.

SHA is requested to submit this information by October 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Information related to invasive vines/weeds along State highways	SHA	October 1, 2025

Vehicle Rentals: The committees request that the State Highway Administration (SHA) submit a report by December 1, 2025, detailing, by fiscal year for fiscal 2023 through 2025:

- the number of days vehicles were rented (by vehicle type);
- the cost for the rentals; and
- an identification of the rentals that were necessary due to a SHA vehicle being out of service.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on rental vehicles	SHA	December 1, 2025

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
<i>Process for renaming highway</i>	SHA	<i>October 1, 2025</i>

Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee – Operating Budget, March 2025

J00D00
Maryland Port Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

J00D00.01 Port Operations

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of modal administration may not be expended until the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) submits a report to the budget committees outlining MPA’s long-term plan for the continued import and distribution of road salt at the North Locust Point Terminal. 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: Planning for the rehabilitation or reconstruction of the North Locust Point Terminal is currently underway. The North Locust Point Terminal is currently used for the import and distribution of road salt. This language requests a report on the long-term plan for operations at this terminal.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Long-term plan for road salt import and distribution operations at the North Locust Point Terminal	MPA	October 1, 2025

Committee Narrative

Howard Street Tunnel Project Quarterly Reporting: The committees are interested in monitoring the progress being made on the Howard Street Tunnel project and request that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) provide four quarterly reports on the status of the project, including percentage completion and any material changes to the project schedule or cost. The committees request that the first report be submitted by July 1, 2025, with subsequent reports submitted every three months thereafter.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status reports on the Howard Street Tunnel project	MPA	July 1, 2025 October 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 April 1, 2026

J00D00

Reports on Port Recovery Metrics: The committees request that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) provide two reports updating the committees on progress that the Port of Baltimore is making in recovering from the temporary port closure caused by the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The reports should provide information on cargo tonnage and other activity metrics for calendar 2024 and 2025 to date with comparisons to the same period before the collapse of the bridge. The first report should be submitted June 1, 2025, and the second report should be submitted December 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Port recovery metrics reports	MPA	June 1, 2025 December 1, 2025

Quarterly Reports on Federal Funds: The committees request that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) submit quarterly reports on federal funds. The reports should include a discussion on withdrawals of federal funds (if any) related to grants for which MPA has received an award and the impacts the withdrawals have had and/or will have in the future. The first report should be submitted July 1, 2025, with subsequent reports submitted every three months.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly reports on federal funds	MPA	July 1, 2025 October 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 April 1, 2026

Clean Ports Program Update: The committees request that the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) submit a report to the committees by December 1, 2025, on the status of expenditures of and activities related to the two grants that it was awarded under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Program. The report should summarize the purposes of two grant awards that it received and indicate the level of expenditures to date along with an anticipated spend schedule for remaining funds.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on Clean Ports Program awards	MPA	December 1, 2025

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*

J00D00

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.

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

J00E00
Motor Vehicle Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00E00.01 Motor Vehicle Operations

Insurance Coverage Verification: The committees request that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) submit a report by November 1, 2025, summarizing the new insurance verification process that took effect January 2025 and providing statistics on the results of the new process.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on new insurance verification process.	MVA	November 1, 2025

Impact of Electric Vehicle Adoption on the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program: The committees request that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) submit a report by November 1, 2025:

- summarizing the process and results of the recent procurement for a vendor to operate Maryland’s Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP), including the performance to date of the vendor and the budget/cost impacts of the fee model provided for in the new contract;
- providing an update on the trends in the adoption of electric vehicles (EV), especially any changes in those trends in calendar 2025 and how EV adoption has impacted the VEIP program; and
- the feasibility and costs associated with expanding the VEIP program to require testing of vehicles registered in counties currently exempt from testing requirements.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on VEIP procurement and the impact of EV adoption on VEIP	MVA	November 1, 2025

J00H01
Maryland Transit Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

J00H01.01 Transit Administration

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for 76 new Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Police positions. Based on the current anticipated completion date of the Purple Line project, additional MTA Police positions will not be needed in fiscal 2026.	-6,622,089 SF	-76.00
 Total Change	 -6,622,089	 -76.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	682.00	606.00		-76.00
Special Fund	160,970,695	154,348,606	-6,622,089	
Total Funds	160,970,695	154,348,606	-6,622,089	

Committee Narrative

Purple Line Project Status Reports: Given challenges and cost overruns associated with completing construction on the Purple Line light rail project, the committees request that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) submit six bimonthly construction status reports for the Purple Line to the committees. The status reports shall provide:

- the completion percentages for the project as a whole and for each major category of work, including (1) the overall project; (2) utility relocations; (3) civil design, (4) systems design; (5) construction possession of property acquisitions; (6) civil construction; (7) rail installation; (8) systems and station construction; (9) the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility; (10) rail vehicles ready to ship; and (11) Capital Crescent Trail Construction;
- the running total amount expended for construction; and
- an explanation of any material change to the total construction cost estimate or construction schedule as set forth in the revised public-private partnership as amended

J00H01

to add Maryland Transit Solutions as the replacement design-build contractor for the project.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reports on Purple Line construction progress	MTA	July 1, 2025, and bimonthly thereafter ending with the May 1, 2026 report

MARC Train Service Expansion and Improvements: The committees request that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) submit a report on ongoing service expansion and improvements to MARC Train service. The report should include specific updates on service expansion and improvements on the MARC Penn and Brunswick Lines. The report should also include an update on negotiations with CSX Transportation to create an alternative arrangement to the original mid-day service plan that was agreed to in 2024.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on MARC train service expansion	MTA	November 1, 2025

J00I00
Maryland Aviation Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

Budget Amendments

J00I00.02 Airport Operations

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for a new information technology tech support position (PIN J00I00089224). The Maryland Aviation Administration had 36 vacant positions as of January 1, 2025, and should reclassify a vacant position instead of adding a new position.	-122,476 SF	-1.00
 Total Change	 -122,476	 -1.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	470.50	469.50		-1.00
Special Fund	253,273,436	253,150,960	-122,476	
Total Funds	253,273,436	253,150,960	-122,476	

J00J00
Maryland Transportation Authority
Maryland Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00J00.41 Operating Program

Francis Scott Key Bridge Reconstruction: The committees are interested in the progress being made on the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and request that the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) provide four quarterly updates on the status of the project. The reports shall provide:

- the current status of design, engineering, federal permitting, preconstruction, and construction activities including completion percentages for each project category;
- the running total amount expended for the project;
- the current availability and projected timeline for seeking federal reimbursement for the project, including the total amount of federal funds that have been received; and
- any material changes to the project schedule or cost.

The committees request that the first report be submitted by July 1, 2025, with subsequent reports submitted every three months thereafter.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status reports on the Francis Scott Key Bridge reconstruction	MDTA	July 1, 2025 October 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 April 1, 2026

Feasibility of Capturing Images of Only Rear License Plates of Vehicles: The committees are interested in the feasibility of capturing the image of only the rear license plate of a vehicle at toll facilities in the State, rather than images of both the front and rear license plates. The committees request that the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) submit a report by December 1, 2025, discussing any system and equipment upgrades necessary to switch to a process of capturing only the image of the rear license plate of a vehicle and any potential impacts that may occur as the result of only capturing the image of the rear license plate of a vehicle rather than both the front and rear license plates.

J00J00

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the feasibility of capturing images of only rear license plates of vehicles	MDTA	December 1, 2025

Collection of Outstanding Toll Debt: The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) efforts to collect outstanding tolls incurred at MDTA facilities, given the potential for significant impacts that outstanding tolls may have on MDTA's revenues. The committees therefore request that MDTA submit a report by September 1, 2025, including:

- the current amounts of outstanding tolls and related fines, fees, and interest owed from in-state and out-of-state motorists, delineated by motorists' state of residence, and a breakdown of the portion of that total that has been outstanding for six months or less, six months to one year, one to three years, and three years or more;
- the amount of outstanding tolls that MDTA was successful in collecting during fiscal 2025, delineated by motorists' state of residence;
- updates on the status of the establishment of a reciprocity agreement with Pennsylvania, as well as reciprocity agreements with all other neighboring states, and the use of collection agencies to collect tolls from out-of-state motorists; and
- the length of time elapsed after which outstanding unpaid toll debt information is reported to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) for the purpose of placing a flag on the driver's license of an in-State motorist with unpaid toll debt, and the procedures and timelines that MDTA follows for reporting this data to MVA.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the collection of outstanding toll debt	MDTA	September 1, 2025

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,

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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.

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

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.

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

Budget Amendments

MARYLAND PARK SERVICE

K00A04.01 Statewide Operations

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 MOU is not submitted to the budget committees.

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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.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
<i>MOU on Patuxent River Wildlands trail maintenance</i>	<i>Department of Natural Resources</i>	<i>September 1, 2025</i>

Amendment No. _____

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SERVICE

K00A12.06 Monitoring and Ecosystem Assessment

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$1,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of protecting or restoring State-owned and State-managed lakes as supported by the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be used only to fund a Deep Creek Lake Pilot Program. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled.

Explanation: This action restricts the mandated appropriation for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund to be used for a pilot program at one State-managed lake, Deep Creek Lake. Chapter 698 of 2018, as amended by Chapter 39 of 2022, required the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$1.0 million to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund through June 30, 2025, to protect or restore State-owned and State-managed lakes. The \$1.0 million mandated appropriation continues through fiscal 2026, since Chapter 698 was in effect when the Governor introduced the annual budget bill for fiscal 2026 during the 2025 legislative session.

Committee Narrative

CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL SERVICE

K00A14.02 Chesapeake and Coastal Service

Summary of Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending: The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR),

Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee – Operating Budget, March 2025

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and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) provide a report on Chesapeake Bay restoration spending. The report shall be drafted subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) in terms of both electronic format to be used and data to be included. The scope of the report is as follows: Chesapeake Bay restoration operating and capital expenditures by agency, fund type, and particular fund source based on programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration for the fiscal 2025 actual, fiscal 2026 working appropriation, and fiscal 2027 allowance to be included as an appendix in the fiscal 2027 budget volumes and submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Summary of Chesapeake Bay restoration spending for programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration	DBM DNR MDE	Fiscal 2027 budget submission

Historical and Projected Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending: The committees are interested in the status of Chesapeake Bay restoration. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) provide a report by December 1, 2025, on recent and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending and associated impacts and the overall framework to meet the calendar 2025 requirement of having all best management practices (BMP) in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The report is requested to include the following:

- fiscal 2025 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reductions; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to be submitted electronically in disaggregated form to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS);
- projected fiscal 2026 to 2027 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reductions; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to be submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS;
- an overall framework discussing the needed regulations, revenues, laws, and administrative actions and their impacts on individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses by year from fiscal 2025 to 2026 in order to reach the calendar 2025

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requirement of having all BMPs in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay, to be both written in narrative form and tabulated in spreadsheet form that is submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS;

- an analysis of the various options for financing Chesapeake Bay restoration, including public-private partnerships, a regional financing authority, nutrient trading, technological developments, and any other policy innovations that would improve the effectiveness of Maryland and other states' efforts toward Chesapeake Bay restoration;
- an analysis on how cost effective the existing State funding sources, such as the Bay Restoration Fund, the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, the Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund, the Clean Water Commerce Account, and the Whole Watershed Fund among others are for Chesapeake Bay restoration purposes; and
- updated information on the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan implementation and how the loads associated with the Conowingo Dam infill, growth of people and animals, and climate change will be addressed.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Historical and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending	MDP DNR MDA MDE DBM	December 1, 2025

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund Annual Work and Expenditure Plans: The committees are concerned that Section 8-2A-03(d) of the Natural Resources Article requires the Governor to submit the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans to the General Assembly as part of the annual budget submission, but the Governor has not done so on a regular basis. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submit the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans with the fiscal 2027 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund annual work and expenditure plans	DNR	Fiscal 2027 budget submission

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Whole Watershed Act Funding Report: The committees recognize the importance of the communication process for successful implementation of the Whole Watershed Act. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with its partner BayStat agencies, submit a report with the fiscal 2027 allowance describing the Whole Watershed Act funding by amount and source; the projects that were selected by March 1, 2025, and the status of each project; use of the fiscal 2027 funding given that the request for proposals is every five years; how projects will be funded over multiple years assuming uncertain appropriations to the Whole Watershed Fund each fiscal year; and preliminary outcomes of the projects selected, including State support provided to project sponsors, nutrient and sediment reductions, and any other relevant co-benefits. The report is requested to be submitted with the Governor’s fiscal 2027 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Whole Watershed Act funding report	DNR	With the Governor’s fiscal 2027 budget submission

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.*

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

L00A
Department of Agriculture

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that \$121,456 in special funds are reduced and the following new regular positions are deleted: N2617155 and N2617153.

Explanation: This action reduces 2.0 new positions and associated funding in the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) fiscal 2026 budget. MDA also has 4.0 new positions and 8.0 contractual conversions in the fiscal 2026 budget, which are not affected by this action. Given the high number of vacancies and positions above budgeted turnover, MDA can reclassify existing vacant positions instead.

Supplemental Budget No. 1

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

L00A11.03 Central Services

Strike the following language to the general fund appropriation:

49. L00A11.03 — Central Services

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 63 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for a contractual conversion:~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Office Clerk II	1.00	38,300
Fringe Benefits		26,323
Turnover Expectancy		11,545
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		53,078
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees		53,078
		0

~~General Fund Appropriation~~ ~~0~~

Explanation: This action deletes a contractual conversion in Supplemental Budget No. 1. A position can be reallocated from existing vacancies for this role.

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OFFICE OF MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

L00A12.05 Animal Health

Strike the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~50. L00A12.05—Animal Health~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 64 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for a contractual conversion.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Office Secy I	1.00	45,276
Fringe Benefits		28,403
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		73,679
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees		39,611
		34,068

~~Special Fund Appropriation~~ ~~34,068~~

Explanation: This action deletes a contractual conversion in Supplemental Budget No. 1. A position can be reallocated from existing vacancies for this role.

L00A12.08 Maryland Horse Industry Board

Strike the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~51. L00A12.08—Maryland Horse Industry Board~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 64 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for a contractual conversion.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Agric Marketing Spec III	1.00	63,258
Fringe Benefits		33,761
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		97,019
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees		61,566
		35,453

~~Special Fund Appropriation~~ ~~35,453~~

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Explanation: This action deletes a contractual conversion in Supplemental Budget No. 1. A position can be reallocated from existing vacancies for this role.

OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

L00A14.02 Forest Pest Management

Strike the following language to the general fund and special fund appropriations:

~~53. L00A14.02—Forest Pest Management~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 66 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for four contractual conversions.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Agricultural Inspector I	4.00	169,739
Fringe Benefits		110,223
Turnover Expectancy		27,397
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		252,565
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees		214,358
		38,207

General Fund Appropriation	0
Special Fund Appropriation	38,207

Explanation: This action deletes 4.0 contractual conversions in Supplemental Budget No. 1. Positions can be reallocated from existing vacancies for these roles.

L00A14.05 Plant Protection and Weed Management

Strike the following language to the special fund and federal fund appropriations:

~~54. L00A14.05—Plant Protection and Weed Management~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 66 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for three contractual conversions.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Agricultural Inspector III	1.00	52,414
Agricultural Inspector II	1.00	49,270
Office Secy I	1.00	37,271
Fringe Benefits		86,138

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Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	225,093
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees	<u>187,262</u>
	<u>37,831</u>

Special Fund Appropriation	-13,243
Federal Fund Appropriation	-24,588

Explanation: This action deletes 3.0 contractual conversions in Supplemental Budget No. 1. Positions can be reallocated from existing vacancies for this role.

L00A14.09 State Chemist

Strike the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~55. L00A14.09 — State Chemist~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 66 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for a contractual conversion.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Office Clerk II	1.00	36,093
Fringe Benefits		25,666
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		61,759

Special Fund Appropriation	61,759
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Explanation: This action deletes a contractual conversion in Supplemental Budget No. 1. A position can be reallocated from existing vacancies for this role.

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Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION

L00A15.04 Resource Conservation Grants

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that the appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program shall be reduced by \$500,000 contingent on the failure of SB 428 and HB 506 establishing the LEEF Program.

Further provided that \$100,000 of the appropriation made for the purpose of the LEEF Program that is contingent on the enactment of SB 428 or HB 506 establishing the program may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) submits a report to the budget committees on the implementation of the program. The report shall describe the program's final parameters, a detailed spending plan, the criteria for establishing each of the proposed engagement tiers, the incentives available to program participants under each tier, the relationship with other MDA policy and funding programs, and proposed Managing for Results measures and goals to determine program success, including how the program is anticipated to improve agriculture sector outcomes for Chesapeake Bay restoration and increase farming profitability. 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: The fiscal 2026 budget as introduced includes a \$900,000 general fund appropriation for the new Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming Program, established by SB 428/HB 506 of the 2025 legislative session. The program's parameters have not been fully defined. Therefore, this budget bill language makes a portion of the funding contingent on the policy bills establishing the program and restricts a portion of the funding pending the submission of a report on the program's parameters.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
LEEF Program report	MDA	September 1, 2025

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce \$400,000 in general fund grant funding for the new Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming program. The fiscal 2026 budget includes a \$900,000 general fund appropriation for the new	-400,000	GF

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program, established by SB 428/HB 506 of the 2025 session. Program funding is unclear due to multiple possible interpretations of the funding parameters in the bills and a related provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025. In addition, the fiscal condition of the State does not warrant the level of expenditure proposed.

Total Change	-400,000	0.00
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<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	16.00	16.00		0.00
General Fund	5,571,669	5,171,669	-400,000	
Special Fund	16,745,378	16,745,378	0	
Federal Fund	750,000	750,000	0	
Total Funds	23,067,047	22,667,047	-400,000	

L00A15.07 Watershed Implementation

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete funding for a U.S. Department of Agriculture federal fund grant that was not awarded. The funding would have been from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.	-2,000,000	FF

Total Change	-2,000,000	0.00
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<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	7.50	7.50		0.00
General Fund	576,300	576,300	0	
Federal Fund	2,000,000	0	-2,000,000	
Total Funds	2,576,300	576,300	-2,000,000	

Q00A
Administration and Offices
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

Q00A01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report to the budget committees describing how the agency has incorporated feedback from the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) about the previous medical and mental health contract's structure and lack of oversight into the current contract. The report shall include the following:

- (1) a detailed justification of the agency's decision to re-enter a fixed-fee payment structure, including an explanation of why the methodology selected is in the State's best interest and whether the agency intends to renegotiate the contract structure;
- (2) the personnel terms and mandated staffing levels required in the medical and mental health contracts for both Corrections and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services;
- (3) the monthly staffing and vacancy levels of Centurion of Maryland for positions supporting the contract, broken out by Corrections and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services and by medical and mental health services;
- (4) an update on the development of a contingency plan outlining the agency's efforts to supplement medical and mental health services and personnel should its contractors fail to meet the terms of the contract;
- (5) a timeline and strategy to achieve and maintain contract staffing levels and ensure that hourly rates paid to the contract's health care professionals are competitive with similar positions across the State;
- (6) a description of the procedures to ensure invoices accurately reflect the resources provided by the contractors and to identify and address inaccurate staffing reports collected from the contractors;
- (7) a description of the procedures to guarantee contractors complete medical and mental health examinations within the required timeframes as well as investigate and resolve inmate complaints in a timely manner; and
- (8) determinations and outcomes regarding liquidated damages, including the monthly

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- (9) amount charged and collected through the submission of the report and future estimates of liquidated damages.

The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than August 1, 2025. 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 November 2024 fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) contained nine findings related to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) medical and mental health contracts and procurements from April 2018 to December 2023. During this period, the agency contracted with YesCare. Issues with the structure and oversight of the YesCare contracts may also apply the new contract with Centurion of Maryland. This language restricts funding pending a report discussing OLA's feedback, the changes made to the new medical and mental health care contracts, staffing levels supporting the new contract, and liquidated damages.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on health care contract structure and oversight	DPSCS	August 1, 2025

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report to the budget committees describing the agency's procurement strategy for completing the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) and Electronic Patient Health Record (EPHR) projects. In addition to providing a strategy to complete the projects, the CCH portion of the plan shall include the following:

- (1) a project status update;
- (2) evidence that the agency has procured a program manager to carry out the project;
- (3) a comprehensive review of neighboring states' criminal history systems;
- (4) justification for each cancellation and reissuance of the request for proposals; and
- (5) an explanation of the agency's decision to pursue an in-house solution.

The EPHR portion of the plan shall include the following:

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- (1) a project status update, including an update on compliance with the Duvall v. Moore consent decree, in regard to the legacy and future systems; and
- (2) justification for the utilization of an Interagency Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than September 1, 2025. 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 CCH major information technology (IT) project has experienced multiple delays, largely due to multiple cancellations and reissuances of the request for proposals. The estimated completion date for this project has been pushed back from the initial estimate of fiscal 2022 to fiscal 2028. Similarly, the EPHR is behind schedule and is estimated to complete two years after the expiration of the Duvall v. Moore decree in June 2026, opening the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) up to litigation. This action restricts funding pending a report including status updates and plans to complete both projects.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Strategy for completing major IT projects	DPSCS	September 1, 2025

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report to the budget committees on the impact of incarceration on the future outcomes of returning offenders. The report shall include three-year recidivism numbers for the fiscal 2016 through 2022 release cohorts and an analysis of recent recidivism trends, including a comparison to past years and other states. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than November 15, 2025. 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 a more detailed examination of recidivism than what is provided in the annual Managing for Results data submission. This action restricts funds for administration pending statistics on three-year term recidivism data and an analysis of recidivism trends.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
Recidivism report	DPSCS	November 15, 2025

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

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.

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) Report: The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submit a report by December 1, 2025, on the following items:

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- annual updates on the number of offenders petitioning and approved for the JRA provisions including, but not limited to, administrative release, medical/geriatric parole, certificates of rehabilitation, and graduated sanctions;
- the number of offenders affected by the JRA diminution and earned compliance credit rules; and
- annual JRA cost savings updates along with any efforts/initiatives to increase savings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
JRA report	DPSCS	December 1, 2025

Correctional Program Participation Measures: The committees are concerned that there is little information available to track the participation of offenders in the various programs, services, and opportunities available to them. The availability of programs and services was reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was little opportunity for the budget committees to review the effect this had on offender rehabilitative efforts. The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) add data tables to the department's annual Managing for Results submission starting with the fiscal 2027 allowance that provide:

- annual counts of programming participants by primary assignment and facility;
- counts of participants by secondary, tertiary, or subsequent programming assignments by facility; and
- annual counts of nonparticipants by facility.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Correctional program participation measures	DPSCS	With the submission of the fiscal 2027 allowance and annually thereafter

Public Information Act (PIA) Compliance Report: The PIA allows citizens to access public records that pose no public interest to withhold. The Maryland PIA Compliance Board has repeatedly ruled that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) has violated the PIA over the years, but there has been little indication that compliance is improving. The committees request that DPSCS submit a report by August 1, 2025, on PIA compliance. The report should include a recent history of actions taken to resolve cases brought before the

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Maryland PIA Compliance Board. The report should also include detailed descriptions of strategies and objectives that will bring DPSCS into compliance with the PIA, including ways these efforts will address:

- training and education of staff;
- systemic sources of nonresponsiveness to requests or wrongful denial of records;
- regulatory changes needed;
- ways that the department can proactively share information with the public to preempt the need for a PIA request; and
- other challenges in complying with the law.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
PIA compliance report	DPSCS	August 1, 2025

Blockchain Technology Report: The committees request that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submit a report by August 15, 2025, on the potential use of blockchain technology for managing inmate records including, but not limited to, criminal records, medical records, and identifying documents like Social Security cards and birth certificates. The report should discuss existing challenges with collecting, storing, and releasing the personal records of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals and how blockchain technology can address those issues and streamline the records management process. The report should consider the feasibility of integrating this technology and any concerns the agency may have regarding its use.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Blockchain technology report	DPSCS	August 15, 2025

Budget Amendments

Q00A01.10 Administrative Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

. provided that \$~~250,000~~500,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of overtime earnings may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)

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submits a report on a plan to eliminate the use of mandatory overtime. The report scope shall include the entire department. The report shall first include a detailed strategic plan to eliminate the need for mandatory overtime, including the identification of staffing levels that the department must achieve at each facility so that voluntary overtime levels are sufficient to cover all staffing needs. The plan shall identify the amount of mandatory overtime use by reason and the number of staff that would need to be hired to satisfy the overtime needs in each category. The plan shall justify these levels using a National Institute of Corrections approved staffing matrix. The plan shall identify how the department prioritizes overtime for qualified officers with low pay rates to minimize unnecessary expenses. In addition to the strategic plan, the report shall also include:

- (1) a breakdown of total correctional officer (CO) overtime hours worked and expenses paid per facility per pay period from July 2024 to October 2025, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual; and
- (2) a breakdown of mandatory CO overtime hours worked and expenses paid per facility per pay period from July 2024 to October 2025, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual.

The report shall be submitted by November 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: Excessive overtime has become a drain on human resources in the department and led to a riskier work environment for State employees, offenders, and volunteers. Overtime has climbed quickly as the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) struggles to fill CO positions. Overworked COs are less equipped to address safety issues, and assaults have increased alongside overtime in correctional and detention facilities. This language restricts overtime funding for DPSCS Administration and Offices – Administrative Services until a report is submitted detailing overtime trends, efforts to reduce overtime, and a plan to eliminate mandatory overtime use.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Overtime strategic plan	DPSCS	November 1, 2025

Amendment No. _____

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Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of Administrative Services may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits the second of four quarterly hiring and attrition reports to the budget committees. The reports shall include a breakdown of all hires and separations for each of the three months in question by category of employee (correctional officer, community supervision agent, or administrative employee) and by reason for separation. The report shall also include narrative summarizing all hiring events and changes to the hiring process that occurred during the quarter; the quantity, type, and cost of bonuses disbursed; as well as overall applications received, tested, and interviewed. The first quarterly report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than October 25, 2025, with each of the following quarterly reports submitted to the budget committees no later than January 25, 2026, April 25, 2026, and July 25, 2026, respectively. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the second quarterly 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: Correctional officer vacancies within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) remain high at 10.8% as of December 1, 2024. The quarterly reports required in fiscal 2026 will continue the cooperation between DPSCS and the budget committees to track all departmental hiring and the success of recent staffing initiatives. This action restricts funding for administration pending the submission of the second of four quarterly reports on hiring and attrition within DPSCS.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Quarterly hiring and attrition reports	DPSCS	October 25, 2025 January 25, 2026 April 25, 2026 July 25, 2026

Q00B
Corrections
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS – HEADQUARTERS

Q00B01.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of General Administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report to the budget committees, in collaboration with experts, technical assistants, and transgender stakeholders, on the treatment of transgender individuals in correctional facilities. The report shall contain data for fiscal 2022 through 2025 on the following items:

- (1) annual total of transgender individuals in each of the agency’s correctional facilities and pretrial detention centers by gender identity;
- (2) annual totals of transgender individuals in each DPSCS correctional facility by housing placement category, including administrative segregation, disciplinary segregation, mental health unit, medical unit, dormitory, double cell, single cell, and all other housing placement categories, disaggregated by the gender of the housing placement and by the gender identity of the transgender individual;
- (3) the number and share of transgender individuals placed in restrictive housing, disaggregated by reason for placement and compared to the cisgender population;
- (4) annual average and median length of time transgender individuals spent in restrictive housing overall and disaggregated by reason for placement into restrictive housing compared to their cisgender peers for each DPSCS correctional facility;
- (5) annual number of requests by transgender individuals to transfer housing assignments, disaggregated by type of housing transfer request (including but not limited to transfer to a different gendered unit or facility, transfer into or out of a medical or mental health unit or facility, or transfer into or out of restrictive confinement) and the outcomes of those requests;
- (6) annual number of housing placement assessments for transgender individuals pursuant to DPSCS Executive Directive OPS.131.0001;
- (7) annual number of requests by transgender individuals to receive gender-affirming care and the outcomes of those requests disaggregated by type of medical care;

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- (8) annual number of requests by individuals identified as vulnerable under Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.41 and by transgender individuals for privacy in showers, bathrooms, and while changing clothing, and the outcomes of those requests;
- (9) annual number of PREA complaints filed and investigated and the outcome for complaints made by transgender individuals compared to cisgender peers;
- (10) annual number of complaints received, number of complaints that were investigated, and outcomes of each complaint for each correctional facility regarding violence, sexual abuse, harassment, discrimination against transgender individuals, other abuse, access to gender-affirming health care, and access to gendered commissary items;
- (11) the number and dollar amount of settlements paid to transgender individuals during each fiscal year from fiscal 2022 to 2025;
- (12) all policies regarding transgender individuals and/or gender dysphoria, including but not limited to intake procedures, identification of transgender individuals, provision of gender-affirming health care, housing assignment, safety from violence and sexual abuse, and access to gendered commissary items;
- (13) a plan to issue guidelines that, at a minimum, are the equivalent of PREA Standard 115.42; and
- (14) an analysis of whether the above DPSCS policies are being implemented and followed at each correctional facility and an analysis of the education and training that DPSCS staff receive regarding LGBTQ+ individuals, along with a discussion of any obstacles to implementation and compliance.

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 revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: Transgender inmates are subject to high rates of violence, sexual abuse, and inappropriate housing assignments, such as unwarranted restrictive housing. Committee narrative in the 2024 Joint Chairmen’s Report requested that DPSCS submit a report on the treatment of transgender individuals by October 1, 2024. However, as of February 1, 2025, DPSCS had not submitted the requested report. This language restricts funding for general administration until DPSCS submits a report, in collaboration with experts, technical assistants, and transgender stakeholders, on the treatment of transgender individuals.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on the treatment of transgender individuals	DPSCS	October 1, 2025

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Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$700,000 in general funds made for the purpose of inmate healthcare expenses is reduced. The Secretary is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Explanation: As of March 10, 2025, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) estimates that it is owed \$700,000 in liquidated damages from Centurion of Maryland, the medical and mental health care contractor for Corrections and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services. This amount accounts for damages accrued during February 2025, as DPSCS agreed to waive damages for the six-month period beginning August 1, 2024, and concluding January 28, 2025. This action reduces the general fund appropriation by \$700,000 to account for liquidated damages the agency expects to collect.

Committee Narrative

Delinquent Payments Report: A June 2024 audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits found that Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) failed to collect late payments, mostly from State agencies. The committees request that MCE within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) provide a report on the status of the payments owed by State and non-State customers, including whether any additional delinquent payments have accrued since its June 2024 fiscal compliance audit. The report should be provided by October 30, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on delinquent payments to MCE	DPSCS	October 30, 2025

Women's Prerelease Programming: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) was required by the Corrections Services Article §§ 3-301 through 3-305 to operate a comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease unit for women by November 1, 2023. The committees note that DPSCS has been consistently delayed in meeting the statutory requirement to build a new, standalone, prerelease facility. While design for the new facility has been delayed, DPSCS is still required to provide evidence-based and gender-responsive services to incarcerated women in its custody and has reportedly begun to do so. However, the amount of information on the new programming is limited, and the committees seek further details into the department's plans to comply with the comprehensive and gender-responsive programming requirements of the statute. The committees ask that DPSCS provide a report on the following information on the women's prerelease unit at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women no later than August 1, 2025:

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- an overview of the current prerelease program for women;
- goals and objectives;
- curriculum and activities, including particular attention to work release and job-related services;
- eligibility requirements;
- the number of applicants, individuals approved, individuals denied, current population, and average daily population for each month in fiscal 2025 in Project FRESH and any other prerelease programming for women;
- resources dedicated to the program, including staff, funding, and facility space;
- a literature review of the program’s evidence-based practices for preparing women to reenter society;
- a plan to measure program effectiveness, including any outcomes or performance data that will be measured and reported;
- a summary of participant satisfaction and feedback on the program;
- an evaluation of the inclusivity and accessibility of the program for women with various backgrounds and needs;
- implementation challenges and future steps for improvement or expansion within the existing facility during the delay in constructing the new facility; and
- a comparison to the opportunities, resources, and conditions provided in men’s prerelease facilities.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on women’s prerelease programming	DPSCS	August 1, 2025

Reentry Passport Program Rollout: The Reentry Passport Program is expected to provide all previously incarcerated individuals with access to an online portal after release where they can store and retrieve critical documents like their Social Security card or their birth certificate. Previous expectations set the Reentry Passport Program to be available for all returning citizens

Q00B

by fall 2023. However, the program remains in the pilot phase, and more work is needed to be done by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) so that all returning citizens will have access to this service moving forward. The committees request that DPSCS submit a report by October 1, 2025, on the Reentry Passport Program rollout. The report should document the progress of expanding the existing pilot and future plans to fully implement the program, including:

- the number of individuals who already have Reentry Passport accounts;
- the dates that those individuals gained access to the passport;
- the list of functional passport functions;
- the list of nonfunctional/upcoming passport functions;
- the exact timeline by which all returning citizens will be able to access the passport;
- historic levels of returning citizens monthly;
- projected levels of returning citizens that will require new access to the passport monthly;
- projected levels of returning citizens that will require ongoing access to the passport monthly;
- the list of documents that must be uploaded;
- the list of documents that may be uploaded;
- the process by which documents are uploaded, and by whom;
- the process by which returning citizens access documents;
- ways that the Maryland Total Human-services Integrated Network supports the initiative;
- challenges to full rollout; and
- the potential impact on recidivism.

Q00B

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Reentry Passport program rollout	DPSCS	October 1, 2025

Q00C
Community Supervision
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

Q00C02.01 Division of Parole and Probation – Support Services

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report to the budget committees on its strategy to improve the safety of community supervision agents. The report shall include:

- (1) a description of the equipment provided to parole and probation agents as well as a comparative analysis of equipment provided by other states with similar community supervision populations;
- (2) a detailed explanation of the protocols developed to improve safety and supervision when an agent is on a home visit, including an update on the implementation of a police escort policy and the associated costs; and
- (3) an action plan for safely resuming home visits, including an explanation of any budgetary impacts associated with the extended suspension of home monitoring.

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 the 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: This language restricts funds from the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services(DPSCS) until the agency submits a report to the budget committees detailing safety equipment purchased, personnel transferred and added to DPP, and other efforts to promote agents’ safety following the death of Agent Davis Martinez during a home visit.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on parole and probation agent safety efforts	DPSCS	October 15, 2025

Q00C

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$428,790 of this appropriation made for the purpose of purchasing body-worn cameras for community supervision agents is contingent upon enactment of legislation allowing the use of a body-worn digital recording device by a correctional officer.

Explanation: This action adds language to make the funding for body-worn cameras for community supervision agents contingent on the enactment of legislation.

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that it is the intent of the General Assembly that body-worn camera policies and procedures be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining in any agreement between the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the employee union authorized to act on behalf of parole and probation agents.

Further provided that \$150,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until DPSCS, in consultation with the employee union authorized to act on behalf of parole and probation agents, submits a report to the budget committees on body-worn cameras for community supervision agents. The report shall include the following:

- (1) all estimated costs associated with providing body-worn cameras to community supervision agents;
- (2) actual fiscal 2026 year-to-date spending on body-worn cameras for community supervision agents;
- (3) policies and procedures regarding the use of body-worn cameras, specifying any differences for community supervision agents and other DPSCS employees; and
- (4) details on activities or pilot programs employed to train community supervision agents on the use of body-worn cameras.

The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than January 1, 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.

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Explanation: This language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that the usage of body-worn cameras be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining between DPSCS and the employee union authorized to act on behalf of parole and probation agents. This language also restricts funds pending a report with details on the cost, policies, and training associated with the usage of body-worn cameras for community supervision agents.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on body-worn cameras for community supervision agents	DPSCS	January 1, 2026

Committee Narrative

Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) Caseload Report: In recent fiscal years, DPP has been working to reduce supervision caseloads to a manageable level for its parole and probation agents. Caseload ratios overall are decreasing but remain high in some regions. The committees request a report due by September 15, 2025, from DPP on the following:

- the exact breakdown of support staff and general supervision caseloads by office into DPP supervision levels for fiscal 2024;
- the exact breakdown of case closures by reason, region, and office; and
- a description of strategies that DPP is using to reduce caseload ratios and prevent agents from taking on too many cases.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
DPP caseload report	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	September 15, 2025

Report on Assessment Tools: The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) has delayed the replacement of the assessment tools used to classify offenders placed on community supervision and the role of these tools in case management. This issue is of particular concern with regard to maintaining proper caseloads for agents as well as providing agents with a reliable framework for addressing the individual needs of each offender. The committees request that DPP submit a report, due September 1, 2025, on the transition to new screening tools used in community supervision. The report should include the following:

- a description of the new tools and process;

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- improvements made to previous assessment processes;
- the transition timeline;
- challenges to implementation;
- alternatives considered, including the reasons for deciding against alternatives;
- a progress update on training initiatives to improve the accuracy of risk assessment administration and scoring; and
- an analysis of the reliability of the new screening tools to predict recidivism and security risk and/or compliance with conditions of supervision.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on assessment tools	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	September 1, 2025

Q00T04
Division of Pretrial Detention and Services
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Budget Amendments

Q00T04.09 General Administration

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report to the budget committees on compliance with the Duvall v. Moore decree. The report shall include:

- (1) an update on the compliance status of each of the provisions;
- (2) the total number of motions issued;
- (3) a summary of any costs associated with the compliance process;
- (4) a strategy and timeline for reaching full compliance by the June 2026 deadline; and
- (5) a discussion of the utilization and effectiveness of third-party consultants in the compliance process.

The report shall be submitted by November 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 the 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 deadline to comply with the medical and mental health provisions in the Duvall v. Moore decree have been extended four times from the original deadline of June 2020. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) must reach full compliance by June 2026 or face litigation regarding the conditions of pretrial detention. This language restricts funds for administration pending a report on compliance with the decree.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status update on compliance with Duvall v. Moore decree	DPSCS	November 1, 2025

U00A
Department of the Environment

Committee Narrative

LAND AND MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION

U00A06.01 Land and Materials Administration

Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund Annual Report: Section 9-275(c) of the Environment Article specifies that an annual status report on the Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund is due on or before November 1 of each year, which was not consistently met before the inclusion of annual budget bill language or committee narrative. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submit the Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund annual status report on November 1, 2025.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund annual report	MDE	November 1, 2025

COORDINATING OFFICES

U00A10.01 Coordinating Offices

Enforcement and Inspection Position Strength Assessment: The committees are interested in the enforcement and inspection positions strength of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Therefore, the committees request that MDE and MDA submit a report on the following:

- an evaluation of the adequacy of Maryland’s current authorized compliance and enforcement positions in the departments. In completing the assessment, the departments shall provide information on the delegation of authority by the federal government to the departments, including any evaluations of this delegated authority, and on the delegation of authority by the departments to other entities; and assess the impact of the role that technology has played on compliance and enforcement responsibilities;
- a comparison of the size, roles, responsibilities, and inspection workload of the departments’ compliance and enforcement positions to neighboring or similar states;
- a list of all inspection activities conducted by the MDE Water and Science Administration, the Land and Materials Administration, the Air and Radiation Administration, and the MDA Office of Resource Conservation;

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- the number of regular positions and contractual full-time equivalents associated with the inspections, including the number of vacancies for fiscal 2013 through 2025 actuals, and fiscal 2026 current and fiscal 2027 estimated appropriations; and
- a description of the use of and outcomes from any next generation compliance techniques to increase compliance with Maryland’s environmental regulations.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Enforcement and inspection position strength assessment	MDA MDE	January 1, 2026

U10B00
Maryland Environmental Service

Committee Narrative

U10B00.41 General Administration

Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Funding Statement: The committees request that MES continue to provide a report on the following:

- undesignated, unrestricted net assets for fiscal 2025, 2026, and 2027 estimated and an explanation for any changes between each of these years, including revenues credited to and expenditures debited from the net assets;
- overhead rates for fiscal 2025, 2026, and 2027 estimated;
- project reserve fund status by beginning balance, approved retainage, funds withdrawn, and interest earned for fiscal 2025 and 2026 for the State Reimbursable Project Contingency Fund, the Eastern Correctional Institution Steam Turbine Contingency Fund, the Department of Natural Resources Project Contingency Fund, and any other project reserve funds created by MES, including justification for any approved retainage or funds withdrawn in any project reserve fund during fiscal 2025 or 2026; and
- justification for the changes in reimbursable project funding for fiscal 2025, 2026, and 2027 estimated.

The report should be submitted in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) with the fiscal 2027 budget submission.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
MES funding statement	MES DBM	With the fiscal 2027 budget submission

Implementation of a Recycling Program in Ocean City: The committees request that the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) complete the following analysis related to recycling operations in the Town of Ocean City and submit a report containing its findings by December 1, 2025:

- evaluate the current status of the Town of Ocean City’s waste management program;
- review the Town of Ocean City’s previous waste management and recycling programs; and

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- evaluate options for recycling collection and processing for the Town of Ocean City, including a discussion on drop-off locations, curbside collection, or other alternatives.

A report containing the results of this analysis should be submitted by December 1, 2025. The committees further request that the Town of Ocean City work with MES on data collection and costs for existing and prior waste management programs.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on establishing a recycling program in Ocean City	MES	December 1, 2025

V00A
Department of Juvenile Services

Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

V00A

- (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

Amendment No. _____

Committee 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

V00A

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.*

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

Budget Amendments

V00E01.02 Residential Contractual

Strike the following language:

~~provided that \$3,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of opening the Catoctin Treatment Center may not be expended for that purpose, but instead may be used only to reopen the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center as an adolescent drug treatment center that serves as a treatment alternative to detention. 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 action restricts funding provided for opening the Catoctin Treatment Center to be used for the purpose of reopening the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center (Noyes) as an adolescent drug treatment center instead. Previously, the Department of Juvenile Services operated Noyes as a detention center, but it was closed in October 2022.~~

Amendment No. _____

W00A
Department of State Police

Committee Narrative

W00A01.01 Office of the Superintendent

Report on Consent Decree and Federal Grants: In July 2022, the Department of Justice announced that it would be investigating the Department of State Police (DSP) to determine if the department’s hiring and promotional practices had violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A consent decree was filed in October 2024 and provisionally approved in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland in November 2024. The Board of Public Works approved the department’s use of \$2.75 million in general funds for required monetary awards in October 2024, and in January 2025, approved the use of \$357,500 in general funds to procure two entry-level selection tests to replace the existing written and physical fitness tests, with the contract’s anticipated delivery date being July 1, 2025. Final approval of the consent decree was expected in March 2025. In February 2025, the federal government filed to dismiss the case without a stated reason and without instruction for how DSP was to proceed. The committees request that DSP submit a report providing an update on the consent decree and any future court rulings relevant to this matter. The department should also update the committees on how it will address these issues if the case is closed.

The report should also identify the federal grant funding that the department is a current recipient of or regularly receives, provide information on the likelihood of receiving those federal grants in the future, and describe contingency plans it has if the federal funding becomes unavailable in fiscal 2026. The report should also describe contingency plans if federal funding becomes unavailable in future State fiscal years for which information is available and how the department addressed any federal funds that became unavailable in fiscal 2025, if applicable.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on consent decree and federal grants	DSP	July 1, 2025

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:*

W00A

- *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
<i>Quarterly reports on personnel measures</i>	<i>DSP</i>	<i>July 10, 2025 October 10, 2025 January 10, 2026 April 10, 2026</i>

Budget Amendments

W00A01.02 Field Operations Bureau

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$1,047,270 in special funds are reduced and the following 15 new regular positions are deleted: N2619124, N2619125, N2619126, N2619127, N2619128, N2619129, N2619130, N2619131, N2619132, N2619133, N2619134, N2619135, N2619136, N2619137, and N2619138.

Explanation: This action reduces reclassification special fund expenditures that appear to be double budgeted and reduces 15.0 new positions in the Department of State Police’s fiscal 2026 budget. Given that the positions were initially funded as reclassifications, it is assumed that these cadet positions will be filled using existing vacant positions and, therefore, the new positions are not needed.

W00A

W00A01.08 Vehicle Theft Prevention Council

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce fiscal 2026 grant funding for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council to the expected level of expenditures.	-690,724	SF
 Total Change	 -690,724	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Special Fund	3,265,724	2,575,000	-690,724	
Total Funds	3,265,724	2,575,000	-690,724	

Sections

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section 36 Uniform Crime Report

SECTION 36. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That \$100,000 of the general fund appropriation within the Department of State Police (DSP) may not be expended until DSP submits the Crime in Maryland, 2024 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to the budget committees. 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 the 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.

Further provided that, if DSP encounters difficulty obtaining, or validating the accuracy of, the necessary crime data by November 1, 2025, from local jurisdictions who provide the data for inclusion in the UCR, DSP shall notify the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). From each jurisdiction's third quarterly State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) disbursement, the office shall withhold a portion, totaling at least 15% but no more than 50%, of that jurisdiction's SAPP grant for fiscal 2026 upon receipt of notification from DSP. GOCPP shall withhold SAPP funds until such a time that the jurisdiction submits its crime data to DSP, and DSP verifies the accuracy of the data. DSP and GOCPP shall submit a report to the budget committees indicating any jurisdiction from which crime data was not received by November 1, 2025, and the amount of SAPP funding from each jurisdiction.

Explanation: This annual language was originally added because DSP had not been submitting its annual crime report in a timely manner due to issues related to receiving crime data from the local jurisdictions. Though data contributors were able to provide the department with 2021 and 2022 crime data on time, there were delays in compiling the 2021 and 2022 UCRs due to the inability for all contributors to submit data in compliance with the new federal reporting system. The 2023 UCR was submitted in December 2024.

This language withholds a portion of the general fund appropriation until the budget committees receive the 2024 UCR. The language also specifies that GOCPP, upon receipt of notification from DSP, must withhold a portion of a delinquent jurisdiction's SAPP grant until certain crime data is received by DSP. Finally, DSP and GOCPP must submit a report to the budget committees that includes information on any jurisdiction that did not report crime data by November 1, 2025, and the amount of SAPP funding that is withheld from each jurisdiction.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
2024 UCR data verification	DSP	November 1, 2025
2024 UCR	DSP	45 days prior to expenditure of funds