



Report of the
**Transportation and the
Environment Subcommittee**
To the House Appropriations Committee

2025 SESSION

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

General Assembly of Maryland
House Appropriations Committee
Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee
2025 Session Membership Roster

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Delegate Mark Edelson, Vice Chair

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Recommended Reductions
Transportation and the 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						
Maryland Energy Administration	\$0	-\$116,518	\$0	\$0	-\$116,518	
Department of Planning	-2,000,000	0	0	0	-2,000,000	
Department of Information Technology	-3,633,710	-210,608	0	0	-3,844,318	
Maryland Department of Transportation (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
Subtotal Fiscal 2026 Regular Budget	-\$6,033,710	-\$8,179,801	-\$2,000,000	\$0	-\$16,213,511	-88.0
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
Fiscal 2026 Total Budget	-\$6,285,826	-\$8,590,550	-\$2,024,588	\$0	-\$16,900,964	-103.0
Fiscal 2025 Deficiency Budget						
Department of Information Technology	-\$193,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$193,000	
Subtotal Fiscal 2025 Deficiency Budget	-\$193,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$193,000	
Supplemental Budget No.1 Deficiency						
Department of Planning	-\$33,259	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$33,259	-2.0
Subtotal Supplemental Budget No.1 Deficiency	-\$33,259	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$33,259	-2.0
Total Fiscal 2025 Deficiency Budget	-\$226,259	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$226,259	-2.0
Grand Total Budget Bill	-\$6,512,085	-\$8,590,550	-\$2,024,588	\$0	-\$17,127,223	-105.0

IIA:

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

Supplemental Budget No. 1

C90G00.08 Public Utility Law Judge

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~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

C90G00

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.

Amendment No. _____

C91H00
Office of the People’s Counsel

Supplemental Budget No. 1

C91H00.01 General Administration

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

~~3. C91H00.01 General Administration~~

~~In addition to the appropriation shown on page 9 of the printed bill (first reading file bill), to provide funds for one position to assist with increased call center volume.~~

~~Personnel Detail:~~

Administrative Officer II	1.00	62,273
Fringe Benefits		33,467
Turnover Expectancy		<u>20,208</u>
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		75,532
Object .11 Equipment Additional		<u>5,000</u>
		80,532
Special Fund Appropriation		80,532

Explanation: Delete 1 new position and associated funding provided in Supplemental Budget No.1. The Office of People’s Counsel has 2 vacant positions as of December 31, 2024. The role for the new position can be filled by reclassifying existing vacant positions.

Amendment No. _____

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	

<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	

Amendment No. _____

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:

D13A13

- 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;
- 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 Transferred to the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA): The fiscal 2026 allowance reflects the transfer of \$180 million of SEIF fund balance to the DPA to be used for implementation of the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. The committees request that the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Energy Administration (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 MEA	December 31, 2025

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

D13A13

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.

Amendment No. _____

**D40W01
Department of Planning**

Supplemental Budget No. 1 - Fiscal 2025 Deficiency

D40W01.04 Planning Coordination

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

~~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.

Amendment No. _____

Supplemental Budget No. 1

D40W01.04 Planning Coordination

Amend 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

D40W01

Fringe Benefits	<u>80,856</u>
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	252,116

~~General Fund Appropriation~~ 252,116

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

Amendment No. _____

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	

<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	

Amendment No. _____

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 Dates
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

F50
Department of Information Technology

Budget Amendments

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT FUND

F50A01.01 Information Technology Investment Fund

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$5,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) submits a report to the budget committees on the Information Technology Investment Fund (ITIF) balance and oversight, as well as the new expedited project criteria. The report shall include:

- (1) a detailed accounting of the ITIF balance, including revenue, spending by project, encumbrances by project, and use of carryover balance in fiscal 2025 and expected for fiscal 2026;
- (2) an explanation for any changes in the ITIF balance forecast compared to the level included as part of the Governor’s Fiscal 2026 Budget Books;
- (3) a description of DoIT’s process for vetting, approving, and disbursing the ITIF funds to respective agencies;
- (4) a description of how DoIT monitors changes in scope and cost for major information technology development projects;
- (5) a description of responsibilities that DoIT delegates to agencies and how DoIT determines which responsibilities are to be delegated; and
- (6) a description of the criteria DoIT has established for an expedited project, including a list of information technology projects that DoIT categorizes as expedited projects and intends to fund through the ITIF.

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: The Governor’s Fiscal 2026 Budget Books showed an expected ITIF balance at the end of fiscal 2025 of \$16,000, which would be very low compared to recent history. The General Assembly is interested in better understanding how DoIT anticipates drawing down the balance in fiscal 2025. In addition, Chapter 497 of 2024 created a new category of information

F50

technology (IT) projects called “expedited project,” for which funding is also to be held in the ITIF. DoIT is still in the process of developing criteria for what will be considered an “expedited project”. This language restricts funds pending a report with a detailed accounting of the ITIF balance in fiscal 2025 and 2026, and any changes since the forecast included in the Governor’s Budget Books. The language also requires additional detail on DoIT’s oversight of Major Information Technology Development Projects and the criteria DoIT has established for expedited projects as well as a list of IT projects categorized as expedited projects by DoIT.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
ITIF balance, oversight, and criteria for expedited projects	DoIT	November 1, 2025

Amendment No. _____

Budget Amendment

F50A01.01 Information Technology Investment Fund

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that, contingent on the enactment of HB 221 or SB 242 establishing and codifying the Maryland Digital Service within the Department of Information Technology, \$4,300,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of oversight of major information technology development projects may not be expended for that purpose but instead may be transferred by budget amendment to F50B04.01 State Chief of Information Technology to be used only for the purpose of the operations of the Maryland Digital Service. 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 language restricts oversight funds for major information technology development projects in the Information Technology Investment Fund to be transferred to the State Chief of Information Technology within the Department of Information Technology for the purpose of operations of the Maryland Digital Service.

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete general funds for the State Board of Elections (SBE) Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization Major Information Technology	-602,614	GF

F50

Development Project (MITDP). Considering recent delays in ongoing MITDPs managed by SBE, and to avoid having all major systems operated by SBE undergoing an MITDP at the same time, this project should be deferred. The deletion of special funds for this project is recommended in D38I01 – SBE.

2. Reduce the general fund appropriation in the Information Technology Investment Fund for three Major Information Technology Development Projects (MITDP) to align the fiscal 2026 budgeted amount with the cashflows available for the projects. This action reduces the general fund appropriation for three MITDPs which includes the general fund reduction in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Statewide Electronic Health Records MITDP by \$2,525,251; MDH Licensing and Regulatory Management System MITDP by \$177,485; and MDH Office of Provider Engagement and Regulations Systems Integration and Modernization by \$278,015.

-2,981,015 GF

Total Change -3,583,629

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	144,104,896	140,521,267	-3,583,629	
Special Fund	13,991,876	13,991,876	0	
Total Funds	158,096,772	154,513,143	-3,583,629	

Amendment No. _____

Fiscal 2025 Deficiency

F50A01.01 Information Technology Investment Fund

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

- | | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Positions</u> |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Reduce the fiscal 2025 proposed deficiency appropriation for the State Board of Elections (SBE) New Campaign Reporting Information System (NCRIS) Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP). This reduction aligns the proposed | -193,000 | GF |

F50

deficiency appropriation with SBE's estimated requirement to support NCRIS MITDP in fiscal 2025.

Total Change -193,000

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
General Fund	1,703,446	1,510,446	-193,000	
Total Funds	1,703,446	1,510,446	-193,000	

Amendment No. _____

Budget Amendments

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

F50B04.01 State Chief of Information Technology

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that since the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has had four or more repeat audit findings in the most recent fiscal compliance audit issued by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), \$250,000 of this agency's administrative appropriation may not be expended unless:

- (1) DoIT has taken corrective action with respect to all repeat audit findings on or before November 1, 2025; and
- (2) a report is submitted to the budget committees by OLA listing each repeat audit finding along with a determination that each repeat finding was corrected. The budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment to allow for funds to be released prior to the end of fiscal 2026.

Explanation: The Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) has requested that budget bill language be added for each unit of State government that has four or more repeat audit findings in its most recent fiscal compliance audit. Each agency is to have a portion of its administrative budget withheld pending the adoption of corrective action by the agency and a determination by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) that each finding was corrected. OLA shall submit a report to the budget committees on the status of repeat findings.

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If OLA reports that an agency failed to completely resolve or make adequate progress toward resolving those repeat audit findings, JAEC requests that \$250,000 in general funds is withheld from each agency's appropriation in the fiscal year following the OLA report until more satisfactory progress has been made toward resolution of those repeat findings.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Status of corrective actions related to the most recent fiscal compliance audit	OLA	45 days before the release of funds

Amendment No. _____

Committee Narrative

F50B04.02 Security

Potential Use of Blockchain Technology for Securely Storing Data and Records: Blockchain is a decentralized digital database that securely stores records across a network of computers. Blockchains are best known for their immutable characteristics. The committees are interested in understanding the potential use of blockchain technology for securely storing data and records. The committees request that Department of Information Technology (DoIT) submit a report on the feasibility of blockchain use for securely storing sensitive data and records. The report should also discuss the potential use of blockchain within State agencies for, but not limited to, storing body-worn camera data and records.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on potential use of blockchain technology for securely storing data and records	DoIT	December 15, 2025

Budget Amendments

F50B04.04 Infrastructure

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Reduce special funds to delete 2.0 long-term vacant positions within the Infrastructure program.	-210,608	SF
Total Change	-210,608	

F50

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	98.00	98.00		
Special Fund	2,204,000	1,993,392	-210,608	
Total Funds	2,204,000	1,993,392	-210,608	

Amendment No. _____

F50B04.07 Radio

Amend appropriation for the purposes indicated:

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Positions</u>
1. Delete general funds in the Radio Program as a technical correction. The Radio program operates the State's 700 megahertz radio system and is funded through the telecommunication fee charges to its users which are funded in the Department of Information Technology as reimbursable funds. This action deletes the incorrect allocation of general funds as a technical correction.	-50,081	GF
 Total Change	 -50,081	 0.00

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Position Change</u>
Position	8.00	8.00		
General Fund	50,081	0	-50,081	
Total Funds	50,081	0	-50,081	

Amendment No. _____

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 §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 §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

Amendment No. _____

J00A01
The Secretary’s Office
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	

Amendment No. _____

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.

J00A01

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

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

Amendment No. _____

J00A01

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
- (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

Amendment No. _____

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 Alternative Compliance Payment revenues in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund in fiscal 2026 only.

J00A01

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.

Amendment No. _____

J00A04
Debt Service Requirements
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 Consolidated Transportation Bonds 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 increase the amount of Consolidated Transportation

J00A04

Bond 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 Consolidated Transportation Bond debt or nontraditional debt outstanding	MDOT	45 days prior to publication of a preliminary official statement

Amendment No. _____

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

Amendment No. _____

J00B01
State Highway Administration
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

J00B01

Budget Amendments

J00B01.02 State System Maintenance

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>Effect</u>	<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	

Amendment No. _____

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;
- the role an Adopt-a-Road volunteer program could have to reduce or eradicate invasive vines/weeds along State highways;

J00B01

- 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

Committee Narrative

J00B01.02 State System Maintenance

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 an SHA vehicle being out of service.

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

J00D00
Maryland Port Administration
Department of Transportation

Committee Narrative

J00D00.01 Port Operations

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

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.

J00D00

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

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.

J00D00

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

J00E00
Motor Vehicle Administration
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
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	

Amendment No. _____

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

J00H01

- 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 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
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	

Amendment No. _____

J00J00
Maryland Transportation Authority

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

K00A
Department of Natural Resources

Budget Amendments

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.

Amendment No. _____

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), 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.

K00A

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 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;

K00A

- 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 §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

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

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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

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.

Amendment No. _____

Supplemental Budget No. 1

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

L00A11.03 Central Services

Amend 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~~

L00A

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

Amendment No. _____

OFFICE OF MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

L00A12.05 Animal Health

Amend 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 Seey 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.

Amendment No. _____

L00A12.08 Maryland Horse Industry Board

Amend 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:~~

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

Special Fund Appropriation 35,453

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

Amendment No. _____

OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

L00A14.02 Forest Pest Management

Amend 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	<u>27,397</u>
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	252,565
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees	<u>214,358</u>
	<u>38,207</u>

General Fund Appropriation	—0
Special Fund Appropriation	<u>38,207</u>

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

Amendment No. _____

L00A

L00A14.05 Plant Protection and Weed Management

Amend 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
Object .01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits		225,093
Object .02 Technical and Special Fees		187,262
		37,831

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.

Amendment No. _____

L00A14.09 State Chemist

Amend 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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L00A

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

Amendment No. _____

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 LEEF 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.

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Information Request	Author	Due Date
LEEF Program report	Maryland Department of Agriculture	September 1, 2025
		Amendment No. _____

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 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.	-400,000	GF
 Total Change	 -400,000	

<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	

Amendment No. _____

L00A

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	

<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	

Amendment No. _____

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 Emergency and Support Services

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
- evaluate options for recycling collection and processing for the Town of Ocean City,
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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