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

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**Additional Pages**

**March 6, 2024**



**C00A00**  
**Judiciary**

**Budget Amendment**

Add the following language:

Provided that \$7,910,680 in general funds made for the purpose of employee merit increases is reduced. The Chief Justice is authorized to allocate this reduction across the Judiciary.

**Explanation:** This action reduces the portion of the fiscal 2025 general fund appropriation for employee merit increases that are double budgeted. The remaining funding by the Judiciary for merit increases plus the amount budgeted in the Statewide Program in the Department of Budget and Management provides funding for employee merit increases at a level commensurate with the level provided for other State employees.

**C90G00**  
**Public Service Commission**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Third-party Retail Energy Supplier Regulation and Enforcement Actions in Response to Prohibited Marketing Practices:** The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the enforcement actions taken by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in response to third-party retail energy suppliers who have engaged in prohibited marketing practices and the effectiveness of these enforcement actions at prohibiting these marketing practices from occurring. The committees request that PSC submit a report providing an overview of the current types of enforcement actions it has the statutory authority to take against third-party retail energy suppliers, information and evidences regarding the effectiveness of these enforcement actions, limitations to the effectiveness of these enforcement actions, and any additional enforcement efforts that PSC plans or could take in the future under existing statutory authority to address ongoing complaints from consumers impacted by prohibited marketing practices. The report should also include information on any additional statutory regulatory authority that is needed for effective enforcement in response to customer complaints.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on third-party retail energy supplier regulation and enforcement actions in response to prohibited marketing practices	PSC	December 1, 2024

**C90G00**  
**Public Service Commission**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Utility Termination Restrictions during the Winter Heating Season and in Cases of Extreme Temperatures:** The committees are interested in the restrictions that are currently in place through statute and regulations surrounding the circumstances under which a utility may terminate service to residential customers. The committees request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) submit a report outlining the utility termination restrictions that are currently in place during the winter heating season lasting from November 1 to March 1, and on days when the forecasted temperatures are either below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The committees request that the report also include a discussion of the authority of PSC to adopt additional utility termination restrictions through regulation or order surrounding terminations occurring during the summer cooling season to protect utility customers from the effects of extreme heat.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on utility termination restrictions during the winter heating season and due to extreme temperatures	PSC	December 1, 2024

# C96J00 Uninsured Employers' Fund

## Committee Narrative

### C96J00.01 Uninsured Employers' Fund

Adopt the following narrative:

**Workgroup on the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF):** The committees are concerned with the long-term solvency of UEF. An actuarial report published in 2020 projected that the fund would face insolvency by fiscal 2030, endangering its future ability to meet its obligations to injured workers. Although current trends are not as dire as the actuary's estimates, UEF's fund balance continues to be on a downward trend, and costs exceeded revenues in fiscal 2023. Operating costs have more than quadrupled in the past 10 years, from \$1.3 million in fiscal 2015 to a planned \$6.0 million in fiscal 2025. Although improved agency functioning in those years has also resulted in cost savings, continued cost increases are not sustainable in the long term without corresponding increases in revenue. To maintain solvency in the future, UEF will need to reduce costs, secure additional revenues, or a combination of both.

In an effort to better understand the challenges facing the agency and possible solutions to ensure UEF's long-term financial health, the committees direct UEF and the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) to establish a workgroup to study and report on potential changes to UEF's funding structure, operations, or other factors the workgroup deems relevant. In particular, the workgroup should consider options for increasing UEF's revenues and recommend whether legislative changes are needed to modify how the agency is currently funded.

At a minimum, the workgroup should include representatives from UEF, WCC, the Subsequent Injury Fund, the Maryland Insurance Administration, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company, and private workers' compensation insurers; and one member each from the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Economic Matters Committee.

The workgroup shall provide the committees with a report to be submitted by November 1, 2024, detailing the workgroup's findings and recommendations regarding UEF's long-term stability and solvency.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on findings and recommendations regarding UEF's long-term solvency	UEF WCC	November 1, 2024

**D21**  
**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy**

**Budget Amendment**

**D21A01.03 State Aid for Police Protection**

Add the following language:

. provided that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) may not distribute a law enforcement agency's share of \$5,000,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the State Aid for Police Protection enhancement funding until the law enforcement agency attests to GOCPP that employees have completed training on juvenile interrogation requirements.

**Explanation:** The fiscal 2025 allowance includes enhanced public safety aid through the State Aid for Police Protection Program (SAPP). This language requires that a portion of enhanced SAPP funding be distributed to law enforcement agencies only after agencies attest that their employees have completed training on juvenile interrogation requirements.

**D21**  
**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy**

**Budget Amendment**

**D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$500,000 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, 2024, regarding Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards and funding. The report shall include:

- (1) each grant award made on July 1, 2024, for the fiscal 2025 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, 2024;
- (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 2020 and 2021 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 2018 through 2024 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. Chapters 625 and 626 of 2023 require that adequate general funds be provided in the budget so that \$60.0 million is available for the program each year beginning in fiscal 2025. This language restricts \$500,000 pending the submission of information related to VOCA awards and funding in fiscal 2025. For each open three-year grant cycle



(federal fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024), GOCPP is required to include the amount of currently 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 2020 and 2021. Finally, the report is required to provide a comparison of the program’s aggregate outcomes or performance measures in recent fiscal years.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Annual VOCA report	GOCPP	November 1, 2024

**D21**  
**Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy**

**Committee Narrative**

**D21A01.01 Administrative Headquarters**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Invoice and Payment Methodology:** The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) is a grant administering agency and funded over 900 subgrants during fiscal 2023. The committees believe there may be opportunities to improve the efficiency of the agency’s grant making processes, saving time and money for the agency and its grantees. It is the intent of the committees that GOCPP perform a systematic review of its invoice and payment methodologies. In addition, the committees request that GOCPP submits a report on any improvements made as a result of the review. The report should also identify any legal or regulatory obstacles or any resources needed by the agency to address identified flaws.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on invoice and payment methodology	GOCPP	October 1, 2024

**D29**  
**Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority**

**Committee Narrative**

**D29A01.01 Administration**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Horse Racetrack Progress Reports:** Chapter 111 of 2023 created the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority (MTROA). As required, MTROA reported on its recommendations for the future of horse racing in Maryland. The authority recommends the Pimlico Plus Plan, which is to have a single thoroughbred racetrack in Pimlico in Baltimore City. Funds authorized for the renovation of Pimlico and Laurel Park would only support Pimlico renovations. It is unclear what will happen to facilities in Bowie Race Track or Laurel Park. The committees request regular updates on the status of all three properties. For Pimlico, the updates should include any memoranda of understanding (MOU) agreed to by MTROA, changes in ownership, the status of planning and construction, and the ownership structure of each facility. For Laurel and Bowie, the update should include any changes in ownership, any MOUs agreed to by MTROA, and proposed uses of the facilities.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Horse racetrack progress reports	MTROA	July 12, 2024 October 11, 2024 January 10, 2025 April 11, 2025

**D40W01**  
**Maryland Department of Planning**

**Budget Amendment**

**D40W01.04 Planning Coordination**

Add the following language to the General Fund appropriation:

, provided that \$125,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of the Maryland250 Commission may be expended only for the purpose of grants from the Department of Planning to county or municipal organizations throughout the State dedicated to the effort of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Funds not expended for this restricted purpose may not be transferred by amendment or otherwise to any other purposes and shall revert to the General Fund.

**Explanation:** This language restricts \$125,000 of the \$250,000 appropriated for the Maryland250 Commission in the Maryland Department of Planning to be used only as grant funding to local nonprofit organizations which are undergoing efforts to celebrate the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the United States.

**E00A**  
**Comptroller of Maryland**

**Committee Narrative**

**Five-year Staffing and Technology Resources Plan and Resulting Revenue Collections:** The Comptroller reported in February 2024 that there is approximately \$3 billion in outstanding tax liabilities for individual income taxes that are known and collectible. There is a further estimated \$3 billion in unassessed and unpaid taxes from underreporting of income. While additional positions and funding for technology were provided in fiscal 2024 and 2025, the Comptroller reports that more staff and funding for technology are needed to efficiently work toward closing the tax gap. However, the Comptroller indicates that hiring and onboarding must be staggered to match the capacity of the human resource team to process new hires and coordinate training. The addition of new technology may also require time for the procurement process, incorporating the technology into operational plans and training staff in its use. The committees are interested in better understanding revenue collection capacity per staff member and technology resources. The committees request that the Comptroller submit a report providing a five-year plan and forecast of revenue collection and the closing of the tax gap, specifying additional staff and technology needs. The report should include:

- the number of additional positions needed each year, along with position descriptions;
- descriptions of new technology resources that would contribute to revenue collection;
- a schedule for acquiring and implementing the new technology resources listed; and
- a forecast of additional tax revenue that would be collected each year due to the proposed additional staff and technology resources.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Proposed staffing and technology resources plan and resulting revenues	Comptroller	August 1, 2024

**E75D**  
**Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Monthly Reporting on Sports Wagering:** The committees are interested in understanding the implementation of sports wagering within the State. The committees request that the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency include in the agency's published monthly reports for sports wagering additional information on the major types of bets being placed including promotional play spending, parlays, the total handle, the hold, as well as the type of sport(s) events being wagered on. The first of these reports should be published by July 5, 2024, with subsequent reports published monthly thereafter on the fifth of each month.

**E75D**  
**Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Problem Gambling:** The committees are interested in understanding the State’s activities and funding related to the prevention and treatment of problem gambling. The committees request that the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA), the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submit a joint report on the programs and strategies each employs to address problem gambling. The report shall be submitted by December 11, 2024, and include data on:

- the estimated number of people impacted by problem gambling;
- efforts to address problem gambling by MLGCA, including efforts by the gaming facilities, specifically addressing voluntary exclusion programs and any other policies or programs;
- the number of individuals participating in voluntary exclusion programs;
- the number of individuals participating in any other programs to address problem gambling offered by MLGCA or gaming facilities;
- the programs offered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- the locations and number of people served by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- the active public awareness campaigns administered by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling;
- any other programs or activities supported by MDH to address problem gambling; and
- the amount of actual expenditures dedicated to addressing problem gambling, separately by source of funding and activity, provided through MDH and MLGCA, including funding for the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, in fiscal 2023 and 2024 and funding available in fiscal 2025.

**Information Request**

**Author**

**Due Date**

Report on problem gambling

MLGCA  
Maryland Center of  
Excellence on Problem  
Gambling  
MDH

December 11, 2024



**J00D00**  
**Maryland Port Administration**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Committee Narrative**

**Howard Street Tunnel Project:** The Howard Street Tunnel project is a priority project for the State of Maryland. It will allow double-stack trains in the Howard Street Tunnel, which will increase business at the Port of Baltimore, generate thousands of new jobs, and spur growth for Maryland's economy. The size and complexity of this project requires a partnership between CSX, the federal government, the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore, and others. It is the intent of the committees that all parties work closely together to address permitting requirements and any issues that may arise on the project to ensure that the project stays on schedule and costs are contained.

**J00E00**  
**Motor Vehicle Administration**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Committee Narrative**

**Improper Out-of-state Tags:** The committees are concerned about Maryland residents with out-of-state vehicle registrations, particularly given a January 2024 assessment by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) that identified nearly 34,000 individuals with Maryland addresses and vehicles registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Maryland law requires that new residents of the State title and register their vehicles with MVA within 60 days. Maryland residents using improper out-of-state tags results in decreased State revenues associated with vehicle registration, titling, and the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. Given these concerns, the committees request that MVA submit a report describing the issue of improper out-of-state tags, including statutory and regulatory background, frequency and effectiveness of MVA enforcement and due diligence actions, and recent trends of motorists using improper out-of-state tags in the State. The report should also include a comparison of Maryland’s laws, enforcement actions, and fee structures to neighboring states.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on improper out-of-state tags	MVA	October 15, 2024

**J00E00**  
**Motor Vehicle Administration**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Committee Narrative**

**Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund Uninsured Division Solvency:** The committees remain concerned about the financial solvency of the Uninsured Division of the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (Maryland Auto), which is primarily supported by uninsured motorist fines assessed by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). Maryland Auto and the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) have identified that the current uninsured motorist assessment rate may be too low to disincentivize drivers from failing to maintain auto insurance policies. The committees are therefore interested in obtaining additional information on the payment of assessed uninsured motorist fines and the population that would be impacted by a change in the rate. The committees request that MVA, in collaboration with Maryland Auto and MIA, submit a report that includes data on the total amount of uninsured motorist fines assessed, billed, and collected in fiscal 2022 and 2023, and the share of motorists who pay assessed fines within one year, two years, or who have never paid the fine. The report should also include an assessment, if known, of how increasing the rate may impact motorists by jurisdiction and demographic group and how Maryland's uninsured motorist fines compare to neighboring states.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on the uninsured motorist fine	MVA MIA Maryland Auto	September 15, 2024

**J00H01**  
**Maryland Transit Administration**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Committee Narrative**

**Purple Line Project Status Reports:** Given continued 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 project to the committees. The status reports shall provide:

- the completion percentages for the project as a whole and for each major category of work;
- 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 agreement as amended to add Maryland Transit Solutions as the replacement design-build contractor for the project.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Reports on Purple Line construction progress	MTA	July 1, 2024, and bimonthly thereafter ending with the May 1, 2025, report

**J00H01**  
**Maryland Transit Administration**  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Budget Amendment**

**J00H01.01 Transit Administration**

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of agency administration in program J00H01.01 Transit Administration and \$250,000 made for the purpose of departmental administration in program J00A01.01 Executive Direction of The Secretary's Office (TSO) may not be expended until the Maryland Transit Administration and TSO submit a report to the budget committees on the impacts of the fall 2023 service changes to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 bus routes. The report shall include:

- (1) an impact assessment of the fall 2023 service adjustments to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 routes, including:
  - (a) demographic information on the rider population and service area, prior to the change;
  - (b) monthly ridership data from July 2022 through July 2023;
  - (c) descriptions of the schools and businesses in the service area;
  - (d) projected impacts of the service change to residents, commuters, students, and other populations in the service area; and
  - (e) any impacts to the corresponding paratransit service area; and
- (2) a summary of the agency's annual outreach efforts prior to route changes and how outreach could be improved to better inform impacted riders, with a particular focus on disadvantaged riders such as those lacking internet access or the ability to attend public meetings.

The report shall be submitted by December 1, 2024, 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:** Each year, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) proposes various service adjustments in the core bus system in Baltimore City to adapt to changing travel needs and trends. MTA holds public hearings to solicit stakeholder and community feedback prior to route changes

becoming effective. However, the committees are concerned that sufficient information on impacted riders is not publicly available prior to service changes and that certain populations may not have access to public meetings or opportunities to share feedback. This language restricts funding pending a report on improving the process surrounding annual fixed route service changes and an impact assessment of the calendar 2023 changes to the CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 route in Baltimore City.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on CityLink Brown and LocalLink33 bus route changes	MTA TSO	December 1, 2024

**K00A**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**Committee Narrative**

**LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING**

**K00A05.05 Land Acquisition and Planning**

**Report on Consideration of Mentored Hunt Program Participant Access to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Easements:** The committees recognize that Maryland will be increasing its land acquisition efforts as required by Chapter 546 of 2023 (Maryland the Beautiful Act). Chapter 546 established the intent of the General Assembly that (1) by calendar 2030, 30% of lands in the State be conserved and (2) by calendar 2024, 40% of lands in the State be conserved. Conservation easements purchased by the State on private lands apply conditions of use that remain in perpetuity. From a hunting perspective, the conditions of use determined at the time the State buys conservation easements on private lands could result in hunters never having access to these conserved lands. This would reduce the size and number of hunting areas and thus potentially reduce the number of people who hunt in Maryland. To counter the decline in hunting, DNR adopted a Mentored Hunt Program. The Mentored Hunt Program is intended to promote hunting consistent with and responsive to the nationwide recruitment, retention, and reactivation initiative. Therefore, the committees request that DNR encourage landowners to provide access to their lands for individuals participating in the Mentored Hunt Program when the landowners negotiate a land conservation easement agreement under Program Open Space (POS) or the Rural Legacy Program. In addition, the committees request that DNR report on the outcome of its efforts to encourage landowners negotiating State conservation easements under POS and the Rural Legacy Program to provide access to Mentored Hunt Program participants by October 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on consideration of Mentored Hunt Program participant access to DNR conservation easements	DNR	October 1, 2024

**K00A**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**Committee Narrative**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**K00A01.01 Secretariat**

**Cultural and Historical Resources Preservation Plan for Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-managed Lands:** The committees are concerned that DNR manages over 500,000 acres of land with numerous cultural and historical sites without a plan that ensures these sites are preserved. Therefore, the committees request that DNR submit a report detailing the department’s efforts to establish a cultural and historical resources protection plan. The plan shall address the following: development of a systemwide survey to inventory all historical and cultural sites on DNR-managed lands; creation of a centralized cultural resources management unit; specification of the staffing and funding needs of a centralized cultural resources management unit; dedication of capital improvement funding for historic preservation projects; and establishment of a research budget to conduct architectural studies and archeological investigations and synthesize data collected from these efforts into interpretive materials to be shared with the public. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Cultural and historical resources preservation plan for DNR-managed lands	DNR	December 1, 2024



**K00A**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**Committee Narrative**

**FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES**

**K00A17.01 Fishing and Boating Services**

**Report on Recreational Striped Bass Reporting Methods and Task Force Recommendations Implementation:** The committees are interested in the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) recreational striped bass reporting methods. The committees are also interested in the status of implementation of the December 1, 2022 report recommendations of the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing – established by Chapters 409 and 410 of 2022. Therefore, the committees request that DNR report on (1) methods to provide licensed fishermen the ability to record electronically per day the number of caught kept striped bass and caught discarded striped bass and (2) the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on recreational striped bass reporting methods and task force recommendations implementation	DNR	December 1, 2024

**L00A**  
**Department of Agriculture**

**Committee Narrative**

**OFFICE OF MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES, AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

**L00A12.10 Marketing and Agriculture Development**

**Report on Blue Catfish Marketing:** The committees are interested in learning more about the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) marketing of blue catfish. Therefore, the committees request that MDA, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), report on its efforts to increase the marketing, processing, and sale of blue catfish in Maryland. The report shall review past and ongoing efforts to promote the creation of a market for blue catfish, identify and explore potential sectors for the blue catfish market, and identify any actions that the State can take to promote and expand the market for blue catfish. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on blue catfish marketing	MDA DNR	December 1, 2024

**L00A**  
**Department of Agriculture**

**Committee Narrative**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**L00A11.05 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation**

**Report on Consideration of Mentored Hunt Program Participant Access to Maryland Department of Agricultural Conservation Easements:** The budget committees recognize that Maryland will be increasing its land acquisition efforts as required by Chapter 546 of 2023 (Maryland the Beautiful Act). Chapter 546 established the intent of the General Assembly that (1) by calendar 2030, 30% of lands in the State be conserved and (2) by calendar 2024, 40% of lands in the State be conserved. Conservation easements purchased by the State on private lands apply conditions of use that remain in perpetuity. From a hunting perspective, the conditions of use determined at the time that the State buys conservation easements on private lands could result in hunters never having access to these conserved lands. This would reduce the size and number of hunting areas and thus potentially reduce the number of people who hunt in Maryland. To counter the decline in hunting, the Department of Natural Resources adopted a Mentored Hunt Program. The Mentored Hunt Program is intended to promote hunting consistent with and responsive to the nationwide recruitment, retention, and reactivation initiative. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) encourage landowners to provide access to their lands for individuals participating in the Mentored Hunt Program when the landowners negotiate a land conservation easement agreement under the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program (MALPP). In addition, the committees request that MDA report on the outcome of its efforts to encourage landowners negotiating State conservation easements under MALPP to provide access to Mentored Hunt Program participants by October 1, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on consideration of Mentored Hunt Program participant access to MDA conservation easements	MDA	October 1, 2024

**Q00A**  
**Administration and Offices**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Budget Amendment**

**Q00A01.01 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 for that purpose until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submits a report on the development of apprenticeship programs to address labor shortages. The report shall detail all efforts by the department to create internal and external apprenticeship pathways, including specific milestones that have already been achieved and milestones that will be achieved, along with dates and expected deadlines. The report shall identify risk factors that may delay or prevent the development of departmental apprenticeship programs and the resources needed to support them. The report shall identify the potential impact of youth and adult apprenticeship pathways on existing labor shortages. The report shall also discuss the collaboration between DPSCS and the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Department of Labor on public safety apprenticeships. The report shall be submitted by August 10, 2024, 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:** While most positions within DPSCS are not typically entered into via apprenticeship, most are considered apprenticeable according to COMAR 09.12.43.04. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, there are over 250 apprenticeable occupations, and correctional officer (CO) is one such occupation. The typical apprenticeship for Cos is one year and is slightly more common than health care and engineering apprenticeships but much less common than construction. Other DPSCS classifications would also be apprenticeable, including food service workers, maintenance workers, and equipment specialists. DPSCS has expressed interest in creating apprenticeship programs and worked with the Department of Budget and Management and the Maryland Department of Labor on developing such programs. While some progress has been reported on adult apprenticeships for existing employees, the budget committees are concerned that progress is too slow and limited to make the intended impact on critical labor shortages. This language requires a more detailed overview of apprenticeship usage within DPSCS and the plans for expanding apprenticeship pathways to mitigate labor shortages.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Public safety apprenticeships	DPSCS	August 10, 2024

**Q00B**  
**Corrections**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Budget Amendment**

**Q00B01.01 General Administration**

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$200,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of overtime earnings may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 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 2023 to October 2024, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual;
- (2) a breakdown of mandatory CO overtime hours worked and expenses paid per facility per pay period from July 2023 to October 2024, including the number of individuals affected and the median number of hours worked per individual; and
- (3) an update on the U.S. Department of Labor investigation into overtime pay errors, including the number of individuals affected, the time frame affected, and the total and median amounts required to be paid.

The report shall be submitted by November 1, 2024, 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. The amounts have trended steeply since the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) has struggled to fill correctional officer positions. Assaults have also been elevated,

particularly in detention facilities. There have also been systemic errors in accounting for overtime that led to a now-concluded U.S. Department of Labor investigation into unpaid wages. The investigation resulted in retroactive payments of \$23.2 million in fiscal 2023 and 2024. The budget committees are deeply troubled by the continuing trends of staffing decline and growth of overtime. This language restricts overtime funding in the fiscal 2025 budget for the Division of Correction – Headquarters until a report is submitted detailing overtime trends, efforts to reduce overtime, and a plan to eliminate mandatory overtime use.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Overtime and assaults report	DPSCS	November 1, 2024

**Q00B**  
**Corrections**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Racial Discrimination and Retaliation:** The committees are deeply troubled by the allegations and evidence contained within an ongoing U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland civil lawsuit related to an alleged culture of racial discrimination and retaliation that exists at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC) in Hagerstown. Plaintiffs claim that they and other similarly situated individuals received unequal and harsher discipline compared to similarly situated Caucasian employees and that their rights to equal opportunity under the law were violated in a conspiratorial manner based on race. While the committees recognize the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is limited in its ability to share information about ongoing legal cases, the committees would like more information on what the department is doing to prevent discrimination, racial retaliation, or criminal conspiracies within the ranks of the department's correctional officers. The committees request the department submit a report, due July 15, 2024, providing fiscal 2023 and 2024 de-identified data on the following:

- rank of MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- promotions, raises, and bonuses for MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- overtime opportunities for MCTC officers disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- disciplinary actions taken against MCTC employees disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- complaints filed against MCTC employees related to racial discrimination and disciplinary retaliation disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- employee turnover at MCTC disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- wait times for MCTC officers to take promotional tests disaggregated by race and ethnicity;
- policies and procedures aimed at preventing racial discrimination in hiring, promotion, and disciplinary actions;
- training materials provided to employees and supervisors and training data regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion;

- an expert legal evaluation of these policies, procedures, and trainings for possible entry points for implicit or explicit racial biases;
- redacted copies of internal communications related to issues of diversity and racial discrimination; and
- a list and short description of investigations conducted by internal DPSCS investigators, other local investigators, or federal investigators into DPSCS racial discrimination in employment for fiscal 2022, 2023, and 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Racial discrimination and retaliation	DPSCS	July 15, 2024



**Q00B**  
**Corrections**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Reentry Passport Program Rollout:** The committees are concerned with the slow rollout of the Reentry Passport program. Previous expectations set the passport to be available for all returning citizens 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 necessary service moving forward. The Reentry Passport 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. Improving an individual's access to critical documents helps to ensure a successful re-entry process. The committees request that DPSCS submit a report by October 1, 2024, on the Reentry Passport program rollout. The report should document the progress of rolling out the existing pilot and future plans to fully roll out 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Reentry Passport program rollout	DPSCS	October 1, 2024

**Q00B**  
**Corrections**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Treatment of Transgender Individuals:** The committees have been concerned with reports that transgender individuals are subject to high rates of sexual abuse and violence and are placed into inappropriate housing assignments, such as unwarranted restrictive housing. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) should submit a report to the committees by October 1, 2024, in collaboration with experts, technical assistants, and transgender stakeholders. The report should also contain data for fiscal 2021 through 2024 on the following items:

- annual totals of transgender individuals in each DPSCS correctional facility by gender identity;
- annual totals of transgender individuals in each 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;
- annual totals of transgender individuals placed in restrictive housing disaggregated by reason for placement into such housing;
- annual average and median length of time that transgender individuals are placed into restrictive housing overall and disaggregated by reason for placement into restrictive housing compared to cisgender peers;
- 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;
- annual number of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints filed and investigated and the outcome for complaints made by transgender individuals compared to cisgender peers; and

- annual number of complaints received, number of complaints that were investigated, and outcomes of each complaint for each correctional facility regarding:
  - violence, harassment, sexual abuse, and discrimination against transgender individuals;
  - access to gender-affirming health care; and
  - access to gendered commissary items.

The committees further request that DPSCS provide 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. The department should identify a plan to fully comply with PREA Standard 115.42 and the challenges to ensuring compliance. Finally, the report should include 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.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on treatment of transgender individuals	DPSCS	October 1, 2024

**Q00C**  
**Community Supervision**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Committee Narrative**

Adopt the following 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 increased by one case per agent in fiscal 2023. The committees are concerned not only with overall caseload ratios but also the distribution of cases by supervision level and inconsistencies between regions, offices, and individual agents. The committees are also concerned with the ongoing high levels of involvement by supervisees in homicides and nonfatal shootings, which increased approximately 1% in total from calendar 2022 to 2023. Supervisees suspected of homicides or nonfatal shootings increased in calendar 2023 from approximately 7% of supervisees to approximately 8% of supervisees. Those suspected of rape and firearm offenses also increased substantially in that period of time. The distribution of cases among agents and the methodology for deciding that distribution continues to be of interest to the committees. The committees request a report due by September 15, 2024, 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;
- an examination of best practices for distributing caseload assignments to agents based on community supervision level in consultation with the American Parole and Probation Association and other leading community supervision organizations;
- the number of community supervision agents as distributed across several ranges of caseload size;
- the number of agents with caseloads higher than recommended based on American Parole and Probation Association standards for each agent’s specific caseload; and
- a description of strategies that DPP is using to reduce caseload ratios and prevent agents from taking on too many cases.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
DPP caseload report	DPSCS	September 15, 2024

**Q00G**  
**Police and Correctional Training Commissions**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

**Budget Amendment**

**Q00G00.01 General Administration**

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of general administration may not be expended until the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services submits a report to the budget committees on specific timelines and spending amounts for the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) Strategic Plan for the MPTSC Fund. The report shall list all spending, revenues, and end-of-year balances for the MPTSC Fund since establishment, including projections for fiscal 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. The report shall include specific dates for making each expenditure, including the dates by which funds are expected to be encumbered and the dates by which implementation is expected to finish. The report shall identify risk factors for completing the work on time and the impact that delays might have on addressing gaps and deficiencies in training. The report shall identify how each expenditure is expected to further one or more of the commission’s Strategic Plan goals, objectives, or performance measures. The report shall also identify any changes to the Strategic Plan since the December 2023 report including any changes to incorporate Department of Legislative Services recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the budget committees no later than August 1, 2024. 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 MPTSC Fund receives \$2 million each year through special court fees and was established at the end of fiscal 2019 to provide a dedicated pool of resources to enhance the training of public safety officials in the State. Spending has moderately accelerated since establishment of the MPTSC Fund. However, the dedicated court fees remain annually underutilized. The fund balance grew to \$9.6 million by the outset of fiscal 2024. While the growing fund balance builds interest revenues each year, there is still concern that these dedicated resources remain underutilized. The department previously shared a strategic plan, but the plan lacked specific dates for each proposed project, and the strategic plan itself had several flaws in measuring success. The budget committees intend for the department to further refine its plans and provide the legislature with necessary details for effective oversight.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Police training fund expenditure dates	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	August 1, 2024

**U00A**  
**Department of the Environment**

**Committee Narrative**

**COORDINATING OFFICES**

**U00A10.01 Coordinating Offices**

**Timeline for Environmental Triggers Development and Go-live Date for Environmental Accidents Text Alert System:** The committees remain concerned that affected parties are not notified of environmental accidents, such as the release of hazardous materials or illegal discharges from wastewater treatment plants, in a timely manner. In the 2023 Joint Chairmen’s Report, the committees requested that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) conduct a study to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing a text alert system for environmental accidents along the lines of the current weather and AMBER alert systems. The submitted report discussed the need to determine environmental triggers for the text alert system but did not provide a timeline for the development of the triggers or a go-live date for the text alert system. Therefore, the committees request that MDE and MDEM submit a report that establishes a timeline for the development of the environmental triggers and the go-live date for the text alert system. The report is requested to be submitted by October 15, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Timeline for environmental triggers development and go-live date for environmental accidents text alert system	MDE MDEM	October 15, 2024

**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:** The committees are concerned that 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. 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, 2024.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Maryland Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund annual report	MDE	November 1, 2024



**V00A**  
**Department of Juvenile Services**

**Committee Narrative**

**V00D01.01 Office of the Secretary**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Services for Youth in Alternatives to Detention (ATD):** The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) provides several ATDs for youth including community detention with or without electronic/global positioning system (GPS) monitoring, evening reporting centers, the Pre-Adjudication Coordination and Transition Center, and shelter care. The committees are concerned that youth may be provided with an ATD – particularly community detention with electronic/GPS monitoring – and not receive other service or programming interventions from DJS. It is the intent of the committees that DJS provide a report on the services and programs that are currently offered to youth in each type of ATD and the department’s plan for extending additional services and programs to youths in an ATD. The report should include data on the utilization of services and programs by youths in an ATD as well as data on youth who reoffend during the pretrial release period. The report should identify the department’s recent expenditure on such services and programs as well as how funds provided to enhance the DJS services continuum would be used to extend additional services and programming and reduce the recidivism rate for youths during the pretrial release period.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on services for youth in ATDs	DJS	July 1, 2024

**W00A**  
**Department of State Police**

**Committee Narrative**

**W00A01.03 Criminal Investigation Bureau**

Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Forensic Laboratory Capacity and Expenditure:** The Department of State Police (DSP) operates forensic laboratories and relies on the services of private and out-of-state laboratories. The committees request DSP submit a report providing information on the cost of using State-owned laboratories compared with the cost of using those privately owned or out of State. The report should include data on the capacity of State-owned forensic laboratories as well as the department’s demand for testing. DSP should include expenditure information related to the State-owned forensic laboratories for fiscal 2023 through 2025 and describe any changes to its laboratory capacity in the same period.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on forensic laboratory capacity and expenditure	DSP	July 1, 2024