

**FY 2017 BUDGET TESTIMONY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CRAIG A. WILLIAMS, CHIEF OF STAFF**

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
February 16, 2016

Public Safety and Administration Sub-Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Keith E. Haynes, Chair
February 18, 2016

Agency Response to DLS Issues and Recommendation

Issue #1 - Governor's Office of Performance Improvement: On October 8, 2015, the Administration announced the creation of the Governor's Office of Performance Improvement through an executive order, which subsumed the office known as StateStat. The office was established to improve business processes throughout State agencies through greater accountability. **The department should comment on the current status of the Performance Office, including accomplishments to date. The department should also provide an overview of the expected duties, responsibilities, and goals of the Performance Office and if more resources or staff may be needed in the future.**

Agency Response The Governor's Office of Performance Improvement has been in operation for four months. During that time, its staff has held individual meetings with each of the Secretaries and senior staff of the 19 departments and agencies the Lt. Governor selected for inclusion in this initiative. They have also visited with the Chesapeake Bay and Commerce Subcabinets.

The goal of these consultations has been to identify appropriate results-based agency performance metrics. The intent is to use these metrics to determine state-wide performance improvement outcomes over time, using numbers, charts, graphs and trendlines.

Plans are to have results displayed on a dashboard modeled after those already in use by a number of other states and municipalities. Data would be organized through dedicated data-gathering software (Socrata) that Maryland already licenses.

Agencies are being urged to upload their performance data onto the Maryland Open Data Portal. The dashboard will be able to pull data automatically from the Portal and update information as soon as it is posted by agencies. Doing so will reduce the amount of time agency staff devote to disseminating performance information.

The dashboard will have links to the original data sets in the Open Data Portal to permit users to see for themselves the sources of information and drill down into details. It will also link to agency dashboards, websites, geographic information systems and other sources of state information to facilitate research on performance results.

The idea is to use automation, immediate updates, connectivity and transparency to make agency outcomes more easily accessible to the public. This will also limit potential errors, avoid duplication of effort, and reduce diversion of agency staff to perform otherwise routine data reporting tasks.

Dashboard development is currently underway using in-house resources from the Department of Information Technology. The Office is also training agency staff on the use of the Open Data Portal in coordination with DoIT.

The Office is fully staffed with a director, two analysts and an assistant for administrative support. No additional resources or staff will be needed.

Issue #2 - Declaration of State of Emergency: During the Baltimore City unrest in April 2015, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan declared a State of Emergency and moved \$20 million from the Revenue Stabilization Account (commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund) to the Board of Public Works' Contingency Fund. Under current statute, there is no required reporting of actions taken by the Governor under a State of Emergency. **The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends consideration of legislation to require the Governor to provide notice of suspended laws and emergency fund transfers during a State of Emergency.**

Agency Response As noted above, the Governor did transfer \$20 million in special funds from the Rainy Day Fund to the Board of Public Works Contingency Fund to reimburse costs incurred by State agencies during the riots in Baltimore City. The Governor did this in a very open manner since the actions require approval by the Board of Public Works. Given the current level of transparency of Administration actions during a declared State of Emergency, we do not believe such legislation would be necessary.

Issue #3 - Accessible Directory of Executive Orders is Lacking: The Governor has the power to issue executive orders, which are not statutes but do have the force of law. In prior years, an organized, easily accessible directory of all executive orders issued by the Governor was provided on the Governor's website. Currently, the Governor's website provides press releases, but no organized archive for the citizens of Maryland to seek out executive orders issued by the Governor. **DLS recommends that the Administration create an organized executive order directory to increase transparency to the public.**

Agency Response The Governor's Office website is updated to display all of the Executive Orders issued by Governor Hogan sequentially by number and date of issue.

Recommended Action

Concur with the Governor's allowance.

Agency Response We respectfully agree with this recommended action.