

Court of Appeals of Maryland
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1699



MARY ELLEN BARBERA
Chief Judge

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

FISCAL YEAR 2018

CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS RESPONSE

DE02011

Summary of Recommended Bond Actions

1. New Catonsville District Court

Approve \$18,800,000 in general obligation bonds for the Catonsville District Court.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE: The Judiciary concurs with the analysis.

2. SECTION 12 – Judiciary – New Catonsville District Court

Approve the pre-authorization of \$12,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for fiscal 2019. This pre-authorization is necessary to fund fully construction of the new Catonsville District Court.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE: The Judiciary concurs with the analysis.

Summary of Other Projects in the Capital Improvement Program

1. Shillman Building Conversion

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that the Judiciary and DGS update the committee on the progress of this project over the past year, with particular emphasis on plans to relocate the agencies currently using the Shillman Building.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Department of General Services has been in contact with both DHMH and DLLR and estimates a 12-15 month timeframe to relocate both agencies to suitable space.

2. Addition to Washington County District Court

DLS recommends that the Judiciary and DGS comment on why this project is included in the CIP ahead of other districts that also have a critical need for new judges, additional space, and improved facilities.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The District Court has had a certified need for a third judgeship in Washington County (Hagerstown) for many years. There is no adequate space in the existing building to accommodate the additional judgeship; however, the building, which was completed in 1999, was designed to allow for expansion for a third courtroom.

The Judiciary is in the process of conducting statewide judicial needs analyses and preliminary results continue to show a demonstrated need for a third judgeship in Washington County. Domestic violence cases, for instance, have risen from 200 in 1991 to 2,029 in 2015.

This request would allow the certification of the third judgeship and reduce overburdened dockets and caseloads in an expanding jurisdiction.

3. New Court of Appeals Building

DLS recommends that Judiciary and DGS comment on the anticipated construction schedule for the project and why the costs were underestimated.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Judiciary has deferred to the responses from DGS set forth below:

Construction will commence on March 3 with the issuance of a “Notice to Proceed” to the contractor.

Previous cost estimates throughout the design review process indicated that the project was on budgeted target. In retrospect and in analysis of other recent cost estimates by the same firm, it has been determined that the Cost Consultant has missed other budgeted targets, both under- and over-estimating them.