



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
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DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT – PERSONNEL

FY 2022 Budget Hearing

Testimony of

David R. Brinkley, Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
House Appropriations Committee
February 23, 2021

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) appreciates this opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services' (DLS) analysis of the Personnel budget. The following testimony addresses the requests for comments in the analysis as well as the DLS recommendations.

DLS ISSUE

The Future of Telework

In response to the pandemic, state agencies have successfully transitioned much of their operations to remote work. The state's current telework policy is extremely flexible and designed to allow for maximum employee participation. As a result, DBM anticipates that the future of telework will look relatively similar to the current telework model but with more performance metrics to ensure that teleworkers are effectively performing their job duties. Generally, DBM believes that wide-scale telework will be a vital recruitment and retention tool for employees while resulting in a reduction in leased space costs. Any changes to the telework policy will require negotiations with the exclusive bargaining representatives.

DLS RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, DBM concurs with all operating budget and Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act recommendations made by the analyst.

With regards to the recommendation to reduce the \$200 million COVID-19 Reserve, DBM would note that at the time of the budget submission the need for a reserve seemed to be a prudent course of action.

However, in light of the continuation of enhanced FMAP funding for 6 additional months, the receipt of the more than \$200 million in federal vaccination funding, and the declaration that FEMA Public Assistance Funding would be 100% reimbursable with no State match, DBM concurs with the recommendation.

We would further note that there are still costs such as quarantine pay (about \$40 million) and various DPSCS expenses, including inmate health care that still need to be paid that are not FEMA eligible.