



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

**The Maryland Department of Health's
Responses to the DLS FY 2022 Budget Analyses
February 22, 2021**

Maryland Department of Health - Administration

The Department thanks the Governor, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Budget Committees for their support in 2020 and in 2021 with COVID-19 response efforts. We thank the Department of Legislative Services for its insightful budget analysis.

Issues

1. Staffing of State Hospitals

MDH should comment on the ability of Perkins to meet the new staffing requirements for security attendants given the reduction in overall positions and current vacancy levels without further increasing overtime expenditures.

Perkins and OHR last analyzed security staffing ratios during the 2020 legislative session, when SB0693 was being discussed. That analysis was done at the unit level, and indicated that some units were meeting the 3:1 ratio, and others were not. The final version of the legislation mandates 3:1 staffing at the facility, rather than at the unit level.

The development of the MDH Hospital System model entails a more global approach to PIN resource management. PINs are reallocated among the facilities and the central MDH Hospital System budget as needed to address system needs. In a similar vein, the MDH PIN Management process regularly reallocates positions among the MDH Hospital System, BHA, DDA, PHS, etc., to address PIN needs across MDH.

2. Outstanding Joint Chairmen's Reports

We thank the budget committees' for their forbearance on our delayed Joint Chairmen's Reports assignments. Submissions of these reports have been delayed due to COVID-19 response efforts and the re-routing of policy analyst staff toward COVID-19 response analytical needs. As soon as we complete a review of many of these reports, we will submit them at the earliest opportunity.