



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
January 28, 2021**

DLS recommends enforcing the BRFA of 2020 provision to fund Medicaid and not the Office of Controlled Substances Administration, rejecting the proposed \$500,000 in the BRFA of 2021. (Pg. 11)

The Department respectfully disagrees with the recommendation. As a large health occupation board, the Board of Pharmacy should maintain a fund balance of 20% of its annual operating expenses. The BRFA provisions of both 2020 and 2021 would put the Board's FY 2022 closing fund balance at an estimated 20%. If the DLS recommendation is approved and \$500,000 remains with the Board, the Board's FY 2022 closing fund balance would show a surplus of approximately 31%.

DLS also recommends using \$700,000 of fund balance from the Board of Psychologists to support community mental health services. (Pg. 11)

Below is the Board of Examiners of Psychologists' response to the DLS recommendation to use \$700,000 in fund balance from the Board to support community mental health services:

- The Board currently has cases at the Office of the Attorney General to be processed – they will be expensive.
- Renewal fees may be waived or reduced this fiscal year and next because of COVID-19 while expenditures continue to be incurred.
- The Board has unbudgeted IT needs that will require drawing down on its fund balance.
- The Board is currently fully staffed, and expected to remain so, while the FY 2021 and FY 2022 budgets include turnover at 4% for both years.

The Board respectfully asks that this information be seriously considered and that the General Assembly not act on the DLS recommendation to repurpose the Board's fund balance. Thank you for your consideration.

Given the consecutive delays in this Major IT project and the continued struggles of several boards to meet licensing, renewal, and complaint goals that would be improved with the completion of this project, DLS recommends adopting committee narrative asking MDH to submit a report detailing which boards will participate in this project and how future funding will be distributed across participating board fund balances and/or MDH general funds. This report should also include a project timeline with milestones to meet a completed enterprise license system by fiscal 2024. (Pg. 17)

The Department concurs with the recommendation.

The state has centralized licensing modernization efforts into a single system called OneStop (<https://onestop.md.gov>). According to statewide IT [policy](#), new licensing system modernization efforts utilize this system. The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is the project sponsor for the Maryland OneStop portal program. The OneStop portal program prioritizes license modernization work based upon several factors, including criticality at the statewide level. MDH has engaged with DoIT, and work for MDH boards and commissions license modernization is in queue. MDH does not have a project timeline at this time, as scope, schedule, and cost development between the OneStop portal program and the lead board, the Board of Nursing, are presently ongoing.

The health occupation boards are statutorily independent and exert unilateral operational control. DoIT has expressed an ongoing desire to work with the Board of Nursing to advance this seminal license migration within the MDH boards and licenses portfolio toward implementation, DoIT has encountered difficulty in gaining traction. DoIT has several projects in flight within the OneStop portal program; therefore, the OneStop program team is consequently moving on to other agencies that are ready to proceed. MDH's centralized IT team is prepared to aid the Board of Nursing in brokering an advancement toward the swift completion of a project plan with DoIT, at the time when the Board confirms their desire to advance this project and follows through with active participation.