

DAVID S. LAPP
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

WILLIAM F. FIELDS
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

JOSEPH G. CLEAVER
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

— **OPC** —
OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL
State of Maryland

6 ST. PAUL STREET, SUITE 2102
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
WWW.OPC.MARYLAND.GOV

BRANDI NIELAND
DIRECTOR, CONSUMER
ASSISTANCE UNIT

OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

C91H00

Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget

Response to Department of Legislative Services

Budget Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environmental Subcommittee
Senator Cory V. McCray, Chair
February 11, 2022

House Appropriations Committee
Transportation and Environment Subcommittee
Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
February 14, 2022

General Response of the Office of People's Counsel (OPC)

The Department of Legislative Services concurs with the Governor's allowance. OPC appreciates the careful review by Samuel Quist, DLS budget analyst, and agrees with the DLS recommendation.

Additional Comments

The DLS analysis notes that Chapter 607 of 2021 expanded OPC's statutory responsibilities. OPC received a budget amendment for fiscal year 2022 to reflect its new statutory responsibilities and its overall increasing workload. We scaled our 2022 request to reflect the effective date of October 1, 2021, three months into the fiscal year.

The additional funds for fiscal year 2022 have enabled OPC to increase the scope of its work consistent with its new statutory considerations, to hire three contractual attorneys, and to retain additional technical litigation support.