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Isiah Leggett

*Vice Chair*  
William E. Kirwan

Rachel H. Hise  
*Executive Director*

**BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE  
ACCOUNTABILITY & IMPLEMENTATION BOARD**

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**Accountability & Implementation Board  
Fiscal 2023 Budget Hearing**

**Testimony of  
Chair Isiah Leggett, Vice Chair William E. Kirwan, and Executive Director Rachel Hise**

**Chair Nancy J. King and members of the Senate Education, Business and Administration  
Subcommittee – March 7, 2022**

**Chair Ben S. Barnes and members of the House Education and Economic Development  
Subcommittee – March 9, 2022**

The Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB) appreciates the opportunity to appear before the budget subcommittee for the very first time to discuss the Department of Legislative Services' (DLS) analysis of the fiscal 2023 budget. As you know, the AIB members were not officially appointed until November 2021 instead of the anticipated date of July 1. Since then, the board has held 9 meetings to become oriented to the AIB's charge to oversee the faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future law and to establish both the board and a new agency. Building a new agency from the ground up has many challenges and takes time. One of the first orders of business was to begin recruitment for an executive director. The board was pleased to announce the selection of Rachel Hise, who began full time with the AIB on February 7, 2022, as the singular staff. The Blueprint legislation anticipated that by this time the AIB would be supported by 15 full-time staff.

Given the delayed start, the AIB next focused its attention on recommending adjustments to the most immediate deadlines in the current Blueprint law related to the development of its Comprehensive Implementation Plan. The comprehensive plan is intended to provide guidance and benchmarks to all of the entities charged with implementing the Blueprint for achieving the outcomes that the Blueprint intends over the 12-year implementation period. It was to be adopted by the AIB on February 15, 2022, which was clearly not feasible for the AIB to meet. Further, individual entity Blueprint implementation plans are required to be submitted to the AIB by June 15, 2022, which is also not feasible. Due to the unanticipated delays in the AIB's establishment, the AIB proposed to the Governor and Presiding Officers, in correspondence dated February 16, 2022, a new timeline for Blueprint implementation plans. This proposed timeline is based on the statutory timeframes but provides an opportunity for public comment on a draft plan in October before the AIB adopts the final plan in December 2022. Entities including local education agencies (LEAs), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Career and Technical Education Committee, and higher education would be required to submit their plans by March 15, 2023. MSDE and LEAs support the new proposed timeframe. The AIB will then review Blueprint implementation plans in the spring/early summer of 2023, so that the plans can be

implemented beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. AIB is currently reviewing other timeline adjustments proposed by MSDE.

Other planned activities include establishing one or more advisory committees with stakeholders from across the State to advise the AIB and ensure that the AIB effectively represents the geographical, racial, and socioeconomic diversity of Maryland's families and students in implementing the Blueprint. The AIB looks forward to working with the Governor, General Assembly, State Board of Education, MSDE, LEAs, and the many other stakeholders around the State to do whatever we can to get the Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation back on track and, most importantly, provide a world-class education system to all of Maryland's students.

The AIB supports the Governor's fiscal 2023 budget, which includes 4 additional permanent positions as part of the deficiency appropriation (available in April 2022) and 10 more positions in fiscal 2023 for a total of 15 regular positions when the AIB is fully staffed. The fiscal 2023 budget includes the full required \$4.8 million for AIB. It also includes full funding for the Blueprint in fiscal 2023, including the new education effort adjustment for less wealthy jurisdictions and other Blueprint programs funded by the Governor in Supplemental Budget No.1. For fiscal 2022, the AIB anticipates receiving most, if not all, of its full \$4.8 million budget authorization through supplementary appropriations authorized by Chapter 356 of 2021. However, based on the flow of fantasy sports and sports betting revenues, the bulk of that funding will not be received until near the end of the fiscal year. The AIB will not be able to encumber all of the funds and potentially a significant portion will revert to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund at the end of fiscal 2022. There are also several other Blueprint programs that receive supplementary appropriations in Chapter 356 that will be in a similar situation and unable to spend their fiscal 2022 funds. The Board respectfully requests that the AIB and other Blueprint programs receiving fiscal 2022 supplementary appropriations be permitted to carryover any remaining funds at the end of fiscal 2022 into fiscal 2023.

**DLS Recommendation:** *Develop Measuring for Results measures for the fiscal 2024 budget.*

**AIB Response:** The AIB concurs with the recommendation made by the analyst.