

DAVID S. LAPP
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

WILLIAM F. FIELDS
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

JULIANA BELL
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 2024 Operating Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee
Senator Sarah Elfreth, Chair
March 6, 2023

House Appropriations Committee
Transportation & Environment Subcommittee
Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
February 27, 2023

The Department of Legislative Services concurs with the Governor's allowance. The Office of People's Counsel ("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 2023 to reflect its new statutory responsibilities and its overall increasing workload and that increase is also reflected in the Governor's allowance for fiscal year 2024.

The additional funds for fiscal year 2023 have enabled OPC to increase the scope of its work consistent with its new statutory considerations, to hire three additional attorneys, and to retain additional technical litigation support.