



MDH ATTENDEES: Meena Seshamani, MD, Secretary
Meg Sullivan, MD, Deputy Secretary, Public Health

Available For Questions: TBD

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Administration
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
Health and Social Services Subcommittee
Delegate Emily Shetty
February 11, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Senator Cory McCray
February 12, 2026

The Department thanks the Governor, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Budget Committees for their support. We thank the Department of Legislative Services for its insightful budget analysis.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) determined that the budget submission complies with the language and recommends the release of \$250,000 in general funds. DLS will process a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the subcommittees (pg. 12).

MDH concurs with this determination and thanks DLS for its support.

MDH should update the committees on the amounts that will be allocated to LHDs to fund COLAs in fiscal 2026 and 2027, how the funds will be allocated by county, and when LHDs will be notified of their allocation (pg. 14).

For fiscal year 2026, \$3,657,975 is allocated to the LHDs to fund COLAs and increments. The Local Health Officers were provided this information on February 5, 2026. The allocations will be provided to the LHDs in February 2026. Funding for fiscal 2027 COLAs and increments will be added to counties based on their number of employed state personnel. The total amount and allocation have not yet been confirmed by DBM.

MDH and DBM should comment on why there is no salary funding budgeted for these four jurisdictions in fiscal 2027, despite employing at least one State staff member (pg. 14).

LHD funding in fiscal year 2027 was rebased to comply with the core formula funding requirement, and the new stipulation that requires core formula funding and salary adjustments to be budgeted separately. Once the fiscal year 2027 COLA is allocated, all counties with state staff will receive additional salary funding based on their number of personnel.

DLS determined the report and submission to AELR to be in compliance with the restrictive language and recommends the release of \$100,000 in general funds. DLS will process a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the subcommittees (pg. 15).

MDH concurs with this determination and thanks DLS for its support.