

Introduced 05.04.2026
 Public Hearing 05.18.2026
 Council Action 05.20.2026
 Executive Action 05.26.2026
 Effective Date 05.26.2026

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 6

Bill No. 29-2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Emergency Appropriation – the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, the Department of Corrections and NonDepartmental expenses

Title: AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026 in order to provide additional spending authority to the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, the Department of Corrections and NonDepartmental expenses for unanticipated expenses related to snow removal, for overtime costs incurred by the Department of Corrections, and for SDAT billing; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.

Introduced and read first time May 4, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.
 By order Michelle Harrod
 Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on May 18, 2026.
 By order Michelle Harrod
 Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on May 20, 2026 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.
 By order Michelle Harrod
 Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 22 day of May, 2026 at 5⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.
 By order Michelle Harrod
 Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive May 26, 2026
Calvin Ball
 Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Council Bill No. 36-2025 (CB36) is the Annual Budget and Appropriation
2 Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and contains the capital and operating
3 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, costs for snow removal exceed the amount appropriated in the General Fund,
6 Contingency Reserve, the Department of Public Works and the Department of General Services,
7 and; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, while the total deficit for snow removal is \$1,083,715, savings in other areas
10 has offset about \$20,086 of the deficit; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, accordingly approximately \$1,863,629 is needed to fully cover the County’s
13 snow removal costs; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, a Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance is currently pending to transfer
16 \$1,000,000 of the \$1,863,629 from the Contingency Reserve to the Department of Public Works
17 but more funding is needed in the amount of \$863,629; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, overtime costs in the Department of Corrections have exceeded the amount
20 appropriated in CB36 by approximately \$600,000; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation has corrected a billing
23 error and the County’s costs have increased by \$236,371; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, for all of these reasons, an additional \$1,700,000 is needed from available
26 debt service in the FY26 budget; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, there is \$1,700,000 in debt service available due to debt service savings; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter, this Emergency



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Dr. Holly Sun, Administrator *HS*
Office of the Budget

Date: April 21, 2026

Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement – Emergency Appropriation

Background

The Department of County Administration requests approval of an emergency appropriation on behalf of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of General Services (DGS), the Department of Corrections, and for Non-Departmental expenses needed to cover snow removal, overtime, and county's share of costs for the State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) in excess of the Fiscal 2026 budgeted amounts.

Fiscal Impact

This legislation is needed to cover the \$1.7 million shortfall detailed below with funding proposed to come from current year savings in General Fund debt service payments.

- DPW snow removal costs are \$1,063,629 over budget. A supplemental appropriation ordinance is planned to be filed to cover \$1 million of the shortfall using the General Fund contingency reserve. The remaining \$63,629 is addressed with this legislation.
- DGS expects a net shortfall of \$800,000 in their snow budget after using other budget savings.
- Corrections is in need of an additional \$600,000 for overtime expenses resulting from higher inmate hospitalizations, juvenile arrests, and increased training hours, despite other budget savings.
- County's share of SDAT expenses exceeds budget by \$236,371 based on recent invoice received from the state.

CC: Angela Gruenfelder
Jennifer Sager
Patrick Pope
Yosef Kebede
Samantha Cobb
Margaret Chippendale
Rafiu Ighile

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on
May 26, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council