

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. 30-2026

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

Short Title: Emergency Appropriation – Employee Benefits Self-Insurance Fund - \$5,200,000

Title: AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026 to provide additional spending authority in the Employee Benefits Self-Insurance fund due to significant increases in medical claim expenditures of the fund; 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 5:00 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	Plus Additional Appropriation	<u>\$5,200,000</u>
2	Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation after transfer	\$90,766,770

3

4 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** that the Employee benefits Self-Insurance fund total for  
5 Fiscal Year 2026 is amended to be \$90,766,770 and, in the current expense budget attached to  
6 Council Bill No. 36-2025 or incorporated by reference, all subtotals, totals, and other calculated  
7 figures shall be adjusted, as needed, to accommodate this Act.

8

9 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that  
10 this Act is adopted as an emergency measure to address an immediate public emergency  
11 affecting life, health or property and having been passed by two-thirds of its members, this Act  
12 shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.



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# Howard County

## Internal Memorandum

**DATE:** April 20, 2026

**FROM:** Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer  
Anju Bennett, Administrator *Anju A. Bennett*  
Office of Human Resources

**SUBJECT:** Employee Benefits Self Insurance Fund  
Emergency Budget Amendment - Testimony/Fiscal Impact Statement

The County Administration respectfully requests approval of an emergency budget amendment to increase Fiscal Year 2026 spending authority for the Employee Benefits Self-Insurance Fund by \$5.2 million. This adjustment is necessary to ensure the Fund can meet projected obligations for employee medical claims, driven by unanticipated high-cost claims and increased overall claims activity following the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Self-Insurance Fund was developed through actuarial analysis incorporating historical claims experience, enrollment trends, and projected cost increases. Despite this disciplined approach, the County experienced higher-than-anticipated claims expenditures, largely attributable to an increase in both the frequency and severity of high-cost medical cases, including complex and specialized treatments.

We respectfully request approval of this \$5.2 million additional appropriation to allow the County to sustain benefit commitments while avoiding disruption.

CC: Jennifer Sager  
Holly Sun

BY THE COUNCIL

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

Michelle 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