Office of the County Auditor Auditor's Analysis

Amendment No. 8 Council Bill No. 63-2020

Amendment Proposed by: Liz Walsh Introduced: November 2, 2020 Auditor: Edward Shulder

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact of this amendment. The proposed amendment codifies the current County policy and therefore would not affect County revenues or expenses.

Purpose:

This amendment:

- Codifies the existing Department of Corrections policy regarding housing of detainees under contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
- Specifies that the County may not assist with any civil immigration enforcement activity unless expressly authorized by Council Bill 63-2020; and
- Requires periodic agency reporting of certain information to the County Executive.

Other Comments:

Effective September 24, 2020, the Department of Corrections adopted a revised policy that limited detainees to only those persons convicted of crime of violence under Maryland law. Prior to this, the Department policy included four categories for which it would accept detainees.

The updated policy reduced the number of detainees held and subsequently reduced revenue received from ICE.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has reduced the number of detainees accepted and housed.