

Introduced 1-4-21
Public Hearing 1-19-21
Council Action 1-19-21
Executive Action 1-20-21
Effective Date 1-20-21

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

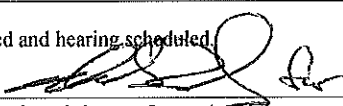
Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 3 -2021

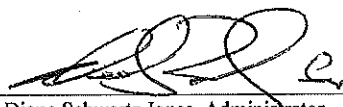
Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

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 2021 in order to fund unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19 response efforts in Howard County in 2021; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.

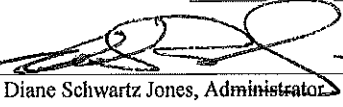
Introduced and read first time January 4, 2021. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order 
Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 January 19, 2021.

By order 
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator


This Bill was read the third time on January 19, 2021 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____

By order 
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 19 day of January, 2021 at 10:30 a.m./p.m.

By order 
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive January 20, 2021


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. 25-2020 (the “Bill”) is known as the Annual Budget and
2 Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2021 and contains the capital and
3 operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, because of the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, there is a need to
6 provide further financial assistance to businesses and residents who continue to struggle
7 financially; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, this amendment will increase the County’s total Fiscal Year 2021 General
10 Fund budget from \$1,176,536,761 to \$1,183,036,761, a difference of \$6,500,000; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the funding source to cover these unanticipated one-time expenses is the
13 use of prior year fund balance in the amount of \$6,500,000; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter, this Emergency
16 Bill is necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.
17

18 **NOW, THEREFORE,**
19

20 *Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the following*
21 *emergency appropriation of funds is authorized and approved for the fiscal year beginning July*
22 *1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, as follows:*
23

24 In CB25:

- 25 1. On page 54, under Fund Center: 9000000000 - Non-Departmental Expenses:
 - 26 a. In the row that reads “51 – Contractual Services”, strike “11,000,000” and
27 substitute “17,500,000”;
 - 28 b. In the row that reads “Total”, strike “20,444,458” and substitute
29 “26,944,458”;

- 1 c. In the row that reads “**Total 9000000000 - Non-Departmental Expenses**”,
2 strike “**20,444,458**” and substitute “**26,944,458**”;
- 3 d. In the row that reads “**Total 9000000000 - Non-Departmental Expenses**
4 **Fund**”, strike “**20,444,458**” and substitute “**26,944,458**”; and
- 5 e. In the row that reads “**Total 9000 - Non-Departmental Expenses**”, strike
6 “**21,194,458**” and substitute “**27,694,458**”.
- 7 2. On page 58, strike “1,176,536,761” and substitute “**\$1,183,036,761**”.

8

9 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland***
10 *that, in the current expense budget and capital budget attached to this Act or incorporated by*
11 *reference, all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures shall be corrected to accommodate*
12 *amendments to this Act.*

13

14 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that,***
15 *having been passed by two-thirds of its members, this Act shall be effective immediately upon its*
16 *enactment.*

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Analysis Statement

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Holly Sun *HS*
Administrator, Office of Budget

Date: December 15, 2020

Background

This emergency bill proposes to amend the Fiscal 2021 operating budget by increasing the current year appropriation in the non-departmental expense category.

The additional appropriation will help continue the support the County has been providing to residents and businesses still struggling under the financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the uncertainties over another federal relief package, it is critical to provide continued support to local businesses and vulnerable residents during the current surge in the pandemic.

The plan is to provide funding to the Howard County Economic Development Authority to issue grants and low interest business loans; Howard County General Hospital to continue creating infrastructure for additional ICU and bed capacity; housing assistance to prevent evictions and foreclosures; food and utility bill payment assistance; and extension of educational support and childcare programs like HoCo STRIVES and RecZone.

Fiscal Analysis

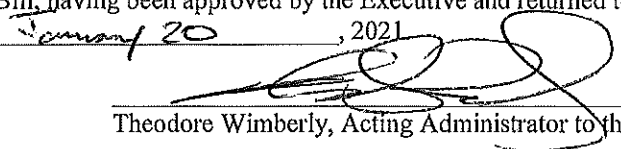
This bill proposes to use \$6.5 million in one-time funding from prior year surplus above the amount required for the Charter-mandated Budget Stabilization Account. Per County Charter, prior surplus can only be used on one-time non-recurrent expenditures. This bill proposes using it to provide critical one-time assistance to residents and businesses impacted by the pandemic.

CC: Jennifer Sager

BY THE COUNCIL

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

January 20, 2021


Theodore Wimberly, Acting 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 _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting 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 _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting 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 _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting 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 _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting 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 _____, 2021.

Theodore Wimberly, Acting Administrator to the County Council

Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 3-2021

BY: Liz Walsh

Legislative Day No. 1

Date: January 19, 2021

Amendment No. 1

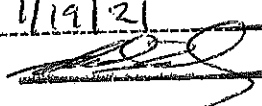
(This Amendment specifies how the emergency appropriations shall be spent.)

1 On page 2, in line 13, insert:

2 *“Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland*
3 *that the appropriations authorized by this Act shall be disbursed as follows:*

- 4 • *\$2 million for the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) to issue*
5 *grants and low interest loans;*
- 6 • *\$1 million for Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) to create infrastructure for ICU*
7 *and bed capacity;*
- 8 • *\$1 million for the Department of Housing and Community Development for housing assistance to*
9 *prevent evictions and foreclosures;*
- 10 • *\$1 million for the Department of Community Resources and Services for food and utility bill*
11 *assistance; and*
- 12 • *\$1.5 million for the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Community*
13 *Resources and Services for educational support and childcare programs.”.*

14
15 Also on page 2, in line 14, strike “*Section 3*” and substitute “*Section 4*”.

ADOPTED _____
FAILED 1/19/21
SIGNATURE 

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 3-2021

Introduced: January 4, 2021

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is:

- In Fiscal Year 2021, an increase of \$6.5 million in non-departmental appropriations to provide pandemic support as noted below.
- A \$6.5 million decrease in the General Fund's available fund balance that could be utilized as PayGo in future fiscal years.

Per our Office's request, the Administration provided a funds availability memo to certify that \$6.5 million in the General Fund's prior year fund balance is available for this appropriation. See Attachment A.

We have open inquiries with the Administration regarding:

- The potential adverse fiscal impact on the County that may be incurred if this legislation were not passed.
- The potential timeline between this emergency appropriation's approval and the spending of these relief funds.

We will provide their response to the Council upon its receipt.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to provide an emergency appropriation of \$6.5 million from the General Fund's prior year revenues to counter financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Administration has noted the funding priorities below:

- \$2 million for the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) to issue grants and low interest loans;
- \$1 million for Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) to create infrastructure for ICU and bed capacity;
- \$1 million in housing assistance to prevent evictions and foreclosures;
- \$1 million for food and utility bill assistance; and
- \$1.5 million for educational support and childcare programs.

The Administration has provided supplemental information on each of these priorities, which can be found in Attachment B.

Other Comments:

According to the Administration, this appropriation is a one-time initiative in response to the State of Emergency and, therefore, it complies with the Charter requirements for emergency legislation.

The Administration has confirmed:

- The second round of Federal stimulus is not currently expected to have a major impact on plans for this funding because the Federal stimulus does not include new CARES Act funding for state and local governments.
 - The Administration noted they will continue to monitor this situation and keep the legislative branch updated.
- In the General Fund, there is a \$7 million assigned fund balance for pandemic/economic assistance in the FY 2020 CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report), which is the source of this \$6.5 million appropriation. Of note, the FY 2020 CAFR indicates a \$121.2 million fund balance that is available for use.
 - The Administration will monitor its spending needs and communicate with the County Council if there is any new legislative need to appropriate more funding.
- There is no timing overlap between this appropriation and previous CARES Act funding (or other federal and state grants) because the prior funding was primarily used in Calendar Year 2020, while this proposed appropriation will fill an anticipated service gap for the rest of FY 2021.

Attachment A



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043


410-313-2195

Rafiu O. Ighile, CPA, CGMA, MBA
Director of Finance
righile@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-4064
TDD 410-313-2323

January 4, 2021

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Rafiu Ighile 
Director of Finance

Re: **CB 3-2021 Certification**

I hereby certify that funds are unencumbered and available for transfer as follows:

From:
1000000000 – 1310 – 304017
General Fund, Prior Year Fund Balance \$6,500,000

To:
9000000000 – 9000 – 9000000000
Non-Departmental Expenses \$6,500,000

Attachment B
 Emergency Appropriation Priorities
 Supplemental Information

Priority	Amount	Supplemental Information from Administration
Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) to issue grants and low interest loans	\$2 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low Interest Business Loans will not be provided at this time. - Business Grants will be awarded in amounts of approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000. - The State has already provided funding to restaurants and hotels so the County funding will not apply to those businesses. - The County funding would go to other businesses with fewer than 25 employees that have commercial space who have not received any other HoCo RISE assistance. - Examples would be home based businesses, event based businesses, senior living facilities and others.
Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) to create infrastructure for ICU and bed capacity	\$1 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pandemic revealed that certain renovations are needed to improve patient flow and keep patients and staff safe. - The funding supports the Behavioral Health (BH) relocation. - The plan is to update old BH space vacated when the new BH building was constructed to allow for more capacity for BH patients (not in-patient psych, these are patients in the ED with BH issues) and to do so from an infection control and safety perspective so they can keep patients and staff safe and provide better care. - ICU capacity hovers at about 73%. While BH is the priority, there is flexibility should other needs to support surge capacity be needed.
Housing assistance to prevent evictions and foreclosures	\$1 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents will complete an application with selected nonprofit providers. - Residents with household income below 80% of HC AMI are eligible for up to 6 months of past due rent or mortgage payment assistance. - The providers will verify past due balances and provide assistance to bring accounts current and keep residents housed. - For example, if average assistance is \$5,000, funding would assist 200 residents.
Food and utility bill assistance	\$1 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preliminary plan is to use \$500,000 for utility assistance and \$500,000 for food assistance; we will continue to identify and respond to the areas of greatest need and make adjustment where needed. - The average utility assistance so far has been about \$300 and the average food assistance per distribution has been \$100. - There is no eligibility requirement for the food distribution. - We utilize the CAC energy assistance eligibility requirements for those applicants. CAC takes the application, processes and approves it.
Educational support and childcare programs	\$1.5 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$635,000 will subsidize the RecZone program, helping families address the childcare needs created by the pandemic. - The funding will allow RecZone childcare program to be extended to June. If HCPSS virtual learning remains the same, current program in 8 schools will continue until mid-June or end of the last week of school. If HCPSS moves to a hybrid model, RecZone will continue at locations TBD until mid-June to support both A and B day students when they are not attending in-person school. - \$865,000 will support the HoCo Scholars program, providing supplemental support to virtual learning through social and emotional development and enrichment activities. - The HoCo Scholars program current ending date is January 29, 2021. - The proposed funding will allow the program to be extended to June 18, 2021 (end of the last week of school unless dates are extended). It will continue to operate across the current 4 sites.



**American
Heart
Association.**

CB 3-2021

January 19th, 2021

Testimony of Laura Hale
American Heart Association
Support of CB3-2021

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association supports the Council's proposed special appropriations to address critical financial relief related to the ongoing pandemic, particularly those related to longstanding inequities associated with housing, early education, and food security. As the Council continues to allocate COVID dollars, we encourage members to remain focused on these essential community needs including healthy food access, hypertension control, and social determinants of health, which this Council has always prioritized.

Addressing health inequity is a longstanding priority for the AHA, which is more critical now since the COVID-19 crisis has magnified and exacerbated existing disparities, particularly among under-resourced communities who are more susceptible to COVID-19 complications. To reverse these known and troubling outcomes, collective and intentional action is necessary to address health disparities and inequities.

Howard County has long been a national leader in promotion and implementation of innovative strategies to eliminate disparities and create a more equitable community. But despite the county's leadership, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need to target funding and resources to communities that have been historically underserved.

Unemployment, housing instability, inequitable access to health care, and food insecurity are all realities that have impacted communities of color and low-income populations the most, both nationally and in our community. The result is a compounding factor that worsens the health outlook for these vulnerable populations.

This is particularly important since in Howard County we still see inequitable outcomes related to race, geography and income.

- Over 400 Howard County residents died from heart disease in 2018ⁱ
 - African-Americans have the highest rates of heart disease and strokeⁱⁱ
- 23.30% of adults in Howard County are overweight or obeseⁱⁱⁱ
- African-Americans have 2 years lower life expectancy than Whites^{iv}
- 47% of adults and 17% of teens do not regularly engage in Physical Activity^v

The AHA supports the Council's efforts to address these health inequities through current and recent appropriations of CARES funds. These allocations have addressed critical social determinants of health through programs to support complete streets, investments for those living with disabilities, food access, youth development, diminish housing instability, support early education, and more. To strengthen these

needed community supports, we also ask the Council to consider funding additional programs, aimed at reducing health disparities including additional investments in food access.

We are pleased to see the Council taking such strong action to reduce the burdens of food insecurity and access to healthcare. The key dollars spent towards programs such as Neighborhood Ride and others will allow for those most effected by Covid-19 to be able to access health foods and healthcare. We encourage the Council to build upon previous efforts to expand food security programs throughout the County, particularly those targeted to immigrant, African-American, and Latinx communities. For example, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest nutrition assistance program and provides monthly cash benefits to reduce food insecurity and help those households rise out of poverty. SNAP incentives in the form of coupons or point-of-sale discounts can help people eat more fruits and vegetables and increase the quality of their diet. The AHA encourages the Council to consider increased appropriations for the Maryland Market Money program so more residents can use and expand SNAP benefits at farmers markets and other locations to buy fresh, locally grown produce.

Additionally, we encourage the Council to expand on existing initiatives to promote self-measured blood pressure monitoring (SMBP). Left undetected or uncontrolled, hypertension can lead to heart attack, stroke, heart failure, as well as other conditions that impact health and quality of life. Ensuring that residents with hypertension are not left behind during the ongoing pandemic, especially those that are low-income or medically underserved, requires targeted efforts to ensure patients can manage their underlying conditions at home. This is especially important for patients who are required to stay home during the pandemic. The Council has previously taken important steps to achieve these goals, and we encourage additional programmatic appropriations through COVID funding.

As evidenced through recent CARES-funded initiatives, Howard County has long been a leader in promoting health equity for all residents. We support and appreciate the Council's investments in healthcare access and food security programs, and we ask the Council to expand this important work and ensure that available COVID dollars are always allocated with health equity at the forefront, to ensure the county remains a healthy, livable, equitable community for all residents.

ⁱ<https://www.livestories.com/statistics/maryland/howard-county-heart-disease-deaths-mortality>

ⁱⁱ<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/Reports/PopHealthReportFINAL.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱhttps://www.opendatanetwork.com/entity/0500000US24027/Howard_County_MD/health.health_behaviors.adult_obesity_value?year=2015

^{iv}<https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Documents/2018%20Maryland%20Vital%20Statistics%20Annual%20Report.pdf>



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Laura Hale, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

American Heart Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB3-2021 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

Support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Laura Hale

Signature: L. Hale

Date: 1/5/21

Organization: American Heart Association

Organization Address: 217 E. Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Number of Members: 3,000

Name of Chair/President: Deepak Swai

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.