



# Howard County

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## Internal Memorandum

**Subject:** Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement on Council Bill No. \_\_\_-2024, an ACT reorganizing the Executive Branch of County Government.

**To:** Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Angela Cabellon, Chief of Staff *AC*

**Date:** January 25, 2024

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### Summary

Bill \_\_\_-2024 pertains to the reorganization of County Administration, the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). It supports moving the Office of Consumer Protection to County Administration, establishing an Office of Agriculture within County Administration, establishing an Opioid Restitution Fund Commission within DCRS, and moving homelessness services to DHCD.

### Background

Pursuant to Section 403 of the Howard County Charter, the Administration submitted an Executive Reorganization Plan to the County Council in December 2023. This testimony provides updates to the Plan, which are reflected in the legislation.

### Proposal

#### Opioid Restitution Fund

- The Plan indicated that the County would establish the Opioid Restitution Fund Office. The legislation, however, preserves the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) within DCRS and places the function of managing opioid settlement funds under OCP.
- The Plan indicated that the County would create three positions to staff the new office. Instead, the OCP will maintain its Administrator position, and one contingent position will be created to support the function of managing opioid settlement funds.

Office of Consumer Protection

- The County still intends to propose one new position for the Office in its FY25 operating budget to support the growing needs of the Office, however; the County will not be establishing a Landlord-Tenant division in County code.

Homelessness services

- The Plan originally called for the transfer of six positions from DCRS to DHCD. In addition to these six positions, the County is also proposing to transfer an additional grant-funded position that also works on homelessness services, and to create a new Administrator position so that DCRS can retain the existing Administrator position that oversees OCP.
- This legislation also shifts the Plan to End Homelessness grants from DCRS to DHCD.

Office of Agriculture

There are no changes to what was proposed in the Plan.

**Fiscal Impact**

An updated fiscal impact statement is included with this testimony.