

Introduced 11-03-2025
Public Hearing 11-19-2025
Council Action 12-01-2025
Executive Action 12-08-2025
Effective Date 12-08-2025

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 69-2025

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

Short Title – Amendment – Budget Ordinance – to strike a condition - L0020, New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation

Title: AN EMERGENCY ACT amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026 in order to strike a condition placed on Capital Project, L0020, New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation; 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 Nov 3, 2025. 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 Nov 19, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Dec 1, 2025 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 3 day of Dec, 2025 at 5⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive Dec. 8, 2025

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 known as the Annual Budget and
2 Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2026 and contains the capital and
3 operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 (FY26);
4 and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Amendment No. 14-2025 to CB36 added a condition to the use of funding
7 in capital project L0020, New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation (the “Condition”); and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Condition requires that funding in L0020 may not be used until the
10 “purchase of the property in fee simple located at 10227 Wincopin Circle Columbia. Maryland
11 21044, which was appraised on May 19, 2023 for approximately \$14,000.000, on or before
12 September 15, 2025.”; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, it is impossible to meet the Condition as the property cannot be acquired in
15 fee simple by the date required by the Condition; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, in order to move forward with Capital Project L0020, the Condition needs
18 to be removed from the Budget Ordinance; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter, the FY26 budget
21 needs to be amended to strike the Condition and is an Emergency Bill is necessary to meet a
22 public emergency affecting life, health or property.

23
24 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

25
26 ***Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Condition*
27 *added by Amendment No. 14 to Council Bill No. 36-2025, as reflected in CB36 on page 3, line 28*
28 *down through and including page 4, line 3 is hereby stricken.*

1 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that
2 *this Act is adopted as an emergency measure to address an immediate emergency affecting life,*
3 *health or property and having been passed by two-thirds of its members, this Act shall be*
4 *effective immediately upon its enactment.*



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement
Amendment – Budget Ordinance – to strike a condition - L0020, New HCLS
Central Branch & Relocation

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Felix Facchine, Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the County Executive

Date: October 23, 2025

PURPOSE

Council Bill No. CB__-2025, seeks action by the County Council to strike a budget condition placed on capital project *L0020-FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation* in the FY2026 Capital Budget. The Budget Condition placed a restriction on the County's ability to spend \$5 million in State grant funding for the new Central Library project. The Budget Condition states that the funding may not be used until the purchase of property for the new Central Library was completed on or before September 15, 2025. As this condition is now obsolete, the County Executive seeks action by the County Council to remove the condition from the FY26 capital budget. Pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter, this legislation is an Emergency Bill that would amend the FY26 budget to strike the Budget Condition.

BACKGROUND

In the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Capital Budget, the County Executive proposed the transfer of \$5 million in restricted State grant funding for the new Central Library project to be moved from *C0214-Category Contingency Fund* to its intended capital project *L0020-FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation*. This State grant funding was initially received by the County in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) as part of a \$10 million grant award, of which \$5 million was previously appropriated to L0020 in FY24.

During the FY26 budget process, the County Council amended the FY26 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County (CB36-2025) by Amendment 14-2025, placing a condition to the use of FY26 funding in capital project L0020. The Condition requires that funding in L0020 may not be used until the "purchase of the property in fee simple located at

10227 Wincopin Circle Columbia. Maryland 21044, which was appraised on May 19, 2023 for approximately \$14,000.000, on or before September 15, 2025.”

The County has engaged with HRD, HCLS, and HCHC during Summer and Fall 2025 to discuss parameters of a land transaction for the new Central Library. Under this proposed arrangement, HRD intends to sell a portion of the property located at 10227 Wincopin Circle in fee simple to Howard County for purposes of the County constructing a new Central Library consistent with the conceptual design presented in March of 2023.

Capital project L0020 does not currently contain any appropriation intended for land acquisition of a new Central Library. Furthermore, the date established in the condition has since passed, making it impossible to meet the Budget Condition. Therefore, the County Executive is seeking action by the County Council to delete the obsolete Budget Condition and allow the County to continue moving forward with project planning, design, and negotiations for land acquisition.

The County Executive intends to negotiate a purchase and sale agreement with Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD) for the acquisition of land for a new Central Library at the Columbia Lakefront, subject to appropriation by the County Council in the FY2027 capital budget. To achieve this goal, the County Executive intends to use State funding in L0020 to advance planning and design for the Central Library project such that a project financing plan may be included in the FY2027 capital budget.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$5 million in State grant funding subject to this Budget Condition was previously appropriated in the County’s capital budget. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to this Budget Amendment.

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on December 8, 2025.

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 _____, 2025.

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 _____, 2025.

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 _____, 2025.

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 _____, 2025.

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 _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council