J.B. Jennings
Legislative District 7
Baltimore and Harford Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees
Capital Budget
Health and Human Services

Legislative Policy Committee

The Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

❑ *Annapolis Office*
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 323
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3706 · 301-858-3706
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3706
JB.Jennings@senate.state.md.us

❑ *District Office*
141 N. Main Street, Suite K
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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Sent via electronic mail

Secretary Helene T. Grady
Maryland Department of Budget and Management
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Secretary Grady,

I am writing to express concern regarding Budget Amendment 077-25, which proposes the transfer of $30,000 from the Dedicated Purpose Account (DPA) to support expedited hiring efforts for former federal employees under the Governor's Federal Employees Expedited Hiring Program.

While I recognize the value of attracting skilled personnel to state service, this transfer raises questions, particularly when viewed alongside other ongoing policies. The State is currently offering up to $20,000 in early retirement incentives to encourage long-time state employees to leave the workforce, presumably to reduce costs and streamline operations. Simultaneously, we are actively transferring funds to bring in additional former federal employees.

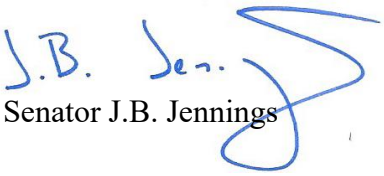
Further complicating the matter is the fact that the State is reportedly operating under a hiring freeze. In this context, it is difficult to reconcile the decision to continue funding and prioritizing a hiring initiative for former federal employees, particularly when only 17 out of 251 hires since February 2025 have come through this expedited program, and nearly $1.97 million of the original $2 million appropriation remains unspent.

In light of these contradictions, I respectfully request clarification on the following points:

1. How does the federal employees expedited hiring initiative align with the State's stated cost-saving measures, including early retirements and the reported hiring freeze?
2. What criteria are used to justify the hiring of former federal employees, especially in part-time or contractual roles, when state agencies are under the governor's orders to not fill these vacancies internally?
3. What evaluation metrics is DBM using to determine whether this program is achieving its intended outcomes?
4. Is there any review underway to assess whether this transfer is necessary, or whether funds should be reallocated to address the state's current multi-billion-dollar deficit?

These are important questions as we work to ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, and effective personnel management across the State government. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Senator J.B. Jennings

cc: *Victoria Gruber, Executive Director, Legislative Services*