



# CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

### FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

#### **SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION**

**SPONSOR:** Council President at the request of the County Executive

**RESOLUTION NO. 63-2020 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – SHERIFF’S OFFICE – COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – PRETRIAL RELEASE PROGRAM**

**SYNOPSIS:** A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 in order to provide the Community Corrections Division of the Cecil County Sheriff’s Office additional General Fund expenditure appropriation authority in the amount of \$126,732. The additional expenditure authority will provide the necessary funding to support the Pretrial Release Program in Cecil County

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**FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:** The approval of this resolution will have a negative net fiscal impact of \$126,732. The resolution seeks funding from the budget stabilization fund to provide the necessary funds to support the personnel and supply costs necessary for the County’s Pretrial Release Program. However, the cost of housing an inmate at \$90/day will be saved as more inmates are able to avail themselves of the program and remaining outside of the Detention Center while awaiting trial.

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#### **FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

The overall strategy of the Pretrial Release Program is to reduce overcrowding within the Cecil County Correctional Facility. The facility currently targets sentenced inmates who qualify for Community Work Release Program, and/or the Home Monitoring Program to reduce the overall population in the Detention Center. This strategy targets those inmates incarcerated and awaiting trial. In doing so, the facility partners within the Cecil County Circuit Court, the Cecil County District Court, and the Cecil County States Attorney Office, help to identify inmates who qualify to be monitored and supervised in the community while awaiting trial. The monitoring and supervision is completed by the existing staff of the Work Release Program and two part-time contractual positions, thus working toward a reduction of the inmate population in the Detention Center while minimizing impact to staffing levels and existing resources.

In FY2019, the Detention Center was continuing to exceed bed capacity on a regular basis. The State of Maryland was starting to embrace the idea of Pretrial Release Programs at the County level and was supporting the decision with grant funds. Cecil County looked to St. Mary’s County who had a Pretrial Release Program in place for guidance to create a successful program. The County decided to apply for grant funds to support establishing a program based on the program in St. Mary’s County. The County was awarded in the

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 the grant funds to support to cost of two part time employees and monitoring bracelets in order to launch the program in Cecil County.

In FY2020 the State continued supporting the program with funding for the part time staff and bracelets. By this point the program was becoming a tool for judges in conjunction with the Community Corrections staff as a way to keep some folks out of the jail.

In FY2021, it is our belief that the COVID pandemic has diverted funds at the State level to fund County Pretrial Release programs. The State is not going to award the County the funds to support the operational costs of this program. The current Administration of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office believes the program has been successful at keeping inmates out of jail and saved the County the housing cost for that inmate while awaiting trial.

The following budget has been determined to support the program in FY2021:

<b>Cecil County, Maryland</b>	
<b>Budget for Pre-Trial Program</b>	
<b>For the year ending June 30, 2021</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Salary - Pre-Trial Services Program Manager - January - June 2021</b>	25,116.00
<b>Fringe - Pre-Trial Services Program Manager - January - June 2021</b>	15,662.50
<b>Salary - Pre-Trial Services Program Caseworker - January - June 2021</b>	18,741.00
<b>Fringe - Pre-Trial Services Program Caseworker - January - June 2021</b>	14,562.50
<b>January - June 2021 Pretrial Bracelets</b>	<u>52,650.00</u>
<b>Total Program Budget</b>	<b>\$ 126,732.00</b>