



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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## Memorandum

**To:** Governing Board  
**From:** Ross Goldstein  
**Date:** February 28, 2022  
**Subject:** 2022 Legislative Session - Update

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During the current legislative session, the following bills have an impact on the MLDS Center.

1. [SB 277/ HB 127 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Division of Correction - Data Requirement](#) - This bill requires the Division of Correction (DOC) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide records and other information related to current and former Maryland inmates (sentenced 18 months or more) to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center. In turn, the MLDS Center is required to collect and maintain that information and add to its research and reporting responsibilities, including research on the impact of prison-based education or training programs (including work release or other transition programs) on workforce outcomes and future recidivism. The bill also adds the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Services to the Governing Board. The Division of Correction has noted several concerns with this legislation, including whether they are legally permitted to share data with the Center. Mr. Goldstein has provided information to the sponsors about the bill, issues presented, and the implications the bill would have for the Center's research abilities. At the time of writing this memorandum, it appears that the consensus is to amend the bill so that it only removes language restricting the MLDS Center from including criminal history data in the definition of student data. The bill will not require DOC to provide data to the Center. Instead, DOC stated their preference to manage data sharing exclusively through data sharing agreements.  
**Status** - HB 127 was jointly heard by the Judiciary and the Ways and Means Committees. No further action has been taken. SB 277 was heard by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. No further action has been taken.
2. [SB 498 / HB 132 - Education - Student Horizon Database and Scorecard \(Students Right to Know Act of 2022\)](#) - The bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to annually collect and report information related to colleges, private career

schools, and the student outcomes at those institutions (including workforce outcomes). The MLDS Center, along with the Higher Education Commission and the Department of Labor are directed to collaborate with MSDE on this requirement. However, since the reporting contemplated by this bill requires cross-sector data collection and analysis, much of the actual work will have to be completed by the MLDS Center. Accordingly, the Horizon Database and Scorecard will require MLDS Center resources and expertise to produce. The Center has some, but not all, of the data required for the scorecard. Some of the data are not available or feasible to collect. Other data will require additional staff resources to incorporate the data elements into the system. The Center has also developed different reports and dashboards that are partially responsive to the scorecard, but do not meet the requirement of a consolidated searchable database with all of the components contemplated by the bill. Compiling and creating the scorecard will require significant effort and additional resources.

**Status** - The HB 132 was heard by the Appropriations Committee on January 18, 2022. No further action has been taken. SB 498 was originally scheduled for a hearing by the Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee on March 8, 2022, but that hearing was canceled. No further action has been taken.

3. [SB 440 / HB 625 - Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment](#) - This bill establishes the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland. While the Center is not specifically named in the bill, many of the topics the Commission is directed to study will be aided by the data sharing partnerships being established between the MLDS Center and the health occupation boards and commissions. For example, one provision requires the Commission to examine turnover rates and average rate of tenure. The MLDS Center could provide information relevant to that question, such as the percentage of new licensees working in a healthcare industry within a certain amount of time and the percentage of licensees still working in a healthcare industry (and/or for the same employer) within a certain amount of time. The Center can also contribute information to questions concerning the state educational institutions and how effectively they are feeding the health occupations pipeline.

**Status** - HB 625 was heard by the Health and Government Operations Committee on February 10, 2022. No further action has been taken. SB 440 was heard by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on February 10, 2022. No further action has been taken.

**FY 2023 Budget**

The Governor's budget allocated \$2,543,117 for the MLDS Center for FY 23 and included a separate deficiency appropriation of \$184,000 for FY 22 to be used for new servers. The Governor's allocation results in a \$144,000 increase over last year's allocation. The budget analysis by the Department of Legislative Services contained no proposed cuts and did not have any questions or issues for the Center. The Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Education, Business, and Administration had a hearing on the MSDE Headquarter budget (which includes the MLDS Center budget) on February 24, 2022 and the House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development will hold a budget hearing on March 9, 2022.

**Action**

Informational.