

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

ADDENDUM

Council Bill No. 51-2020

Introduced: September 8, 2020

Auditors: Michelle R. Harrod

Purpose:

We are providing this addendum because a change in Detention Center Policy will necessitate a change to our fiscal impact of Council Bill 51-2020.

The County Executive announced a change in policy for the housing of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees on September 18, 2020. Under the new policy, "*Howard County Department of Corrections will only accept detainees from ICE who are convicted of a 'crime of violence,' as stated under Maryland Criminal code section 14-101.*"

Fiscal Impact:

The Director advised the County Auditor that the number of ICE detainee beds will be reduced from 110 to approximately 75 due to the security issues that they will now face. According to Department of Corrections (Corrections) records, the number of beds filled averaged 86 per day in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. Therefore, the policy change will likely reduce future ICE revenues.

This difference of 11 beds per day (as a result of the policy change) at the rate of \$110 per diem could result in a reduction of approximately \$442,000 of annual revenues. Because CB51-2020 will eliminate all ICE revenues, any change in policy which decreases the number of ICE detainees will lessen the fiscal impact of the legislation accordingly.

We are unable to determine the impact on costs as this is contingent upon the number of new detainees received, not the average daily number.

NOTE: Because Corrections is capping the number of ICE beds at 24 during the COVID pandemic, there will be no change in fiscal impact until they return to detaining at normal levels.

Other Comments:

None.