



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF

✓ *Breaking down the Board of Public Works*

Meeting Date
September 20, 2023

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



The BPW approved two requests from Morgan State University to award contracts to The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company (Baltimore, Maryland) for the renovation of **Baldwin Hall and Cummings House** at a combined total cost of \$6 million. Renovating these two legacy buildings is part of the University's initiative to modernize student housing facilities in order to create healthy, safe, and energy-efficient environments marketable to the **growing student population.**

The renovations will include **energy-efficient components** like a new electrified mechanical system, LED lighting with lighting control sensors, insulated windows to reduce heat loss, and **other features to reduce energy and operational costs.** The total estimated project cost is \$33 million.

RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM



The BPW approved two requests from the Department of Natural Resources to grant \$291 million in Rural Legacy Program funding for **two conservation easements in St. Mary's County totaling 170 acres.** These easements will protect productive agricultural and forest lands, and vegetative stream buffers and shoreline along the St. Mary's River, St. Inigoes Creek, and unnamed tributaries and wetlands.

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 95 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$352 million including:

- 11 items awarding \$42 million to prime certified small businesses
- 6 items awarding \$17 million to prime minority business enterprises
- 9 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises
- 1 item awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises
- Grant agreements awarding \$3.7 million to 11 projects across the state

FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM



The BPW approved a request from the Department of Labor (DoL) to create **24 new positions for the Division of Paid Leave at a proposed cost of \$3 million.** DOL is faced with an aggressive statutory timeline for implementing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program. Regulations are to be published in January 2024. Tax contributions will begin in January 2025 and processing of claims and benefits payments will begin in January 2026. DOL anticipates hiring over 500 full time employees between FY24 and FY26 to staff the FAMLI division.

For FY24 to-date, the BPW has approved a total of 38 positions across all agencies, well within the "Rule of 100." (The operating budget authorizes the BPW to create no more than 100 positions in excess of the total number of authorized State positions for a given Fiscal Year, within the Executive Branch).