

# Hogan picks Brinkley to head up Dept. of Budget and Management

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ANNAPOLIS — With less than one week left to go before he takes the oath of office, Larry Hogan rounded out most of his Cabinet including naming the man who will take point on the issue that is lead priority for the incoming Republican governor — the budget.

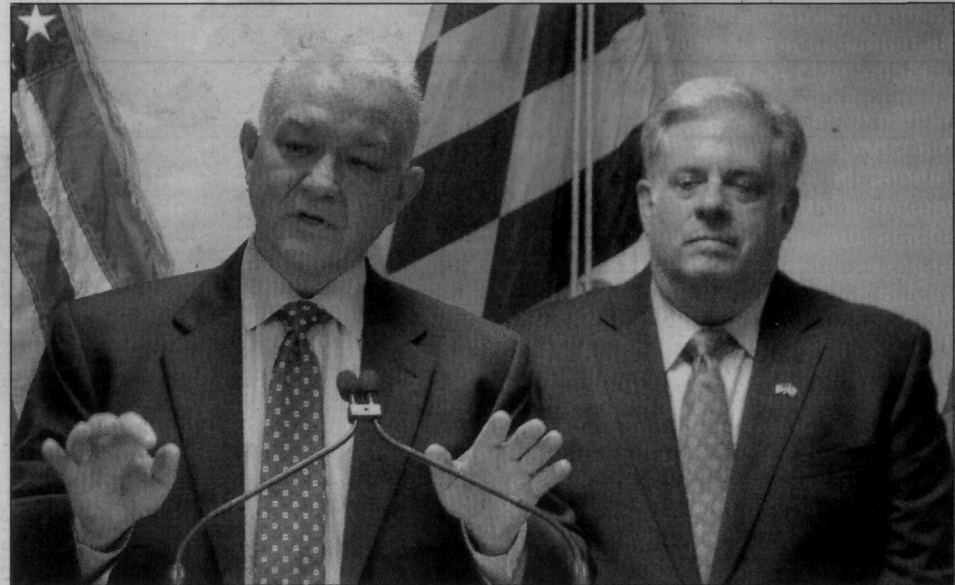
Hogan named Republican former Sen. David R. Brinkley as the next secretary of the Department of Budget and

Management — a move that some say could rankle members of the Republican party in the Senate.

“Our big issue, our big concern is to focus on getting borrowing and spending on a workable trajectory because right now it’s not workable,” Brinkley said Thursday.

Hogan will start his first year by introducing the budget the day after he is sworn in and will have to deal with a

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From left, former Sen. David Brinkley and Gov.-elect Larry Hogan discussed their plans at a news conference Thursday.

# Brinkley >> Choice for budget secretary may rankle some Republicans, sources say

Continued from 1A

projected budget deficit of nearly \$1.2 billion over the next 18 months which includes more than \$750 million in the fiscal 2016 budget.

Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works approved more than \$400 million in budget cuts, fund transfers and other actions meant to erase the projected \$400 million deficit in the current year. Many of those changes will require legislative action during the current 90-day legislative session.

Hogan has previously publicly thanked O'Malley for the moves but has not said if he will keep all of them when he takes office.

Brinkley, who represented Frederick County during two terms in the House of Delegates and three terms in the Senate,

served most recently on the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

Sources familiar with the selection said Brinkley was on a short list of candidates that also included some unnamed candidates who were identified because they had no connections to state government and would bring an outsider's perspective.

But during the search, Brinkley continued to work with Robert L. "Bobby" Neall, a former state senator who has been Hogan's senior adviser on the budget. The pair worked together since the election including over the recent holidays on a budget plan and developed a working relationship.

In the end, Brinkley emerged as the favorite candidate because he was doing the job, the source said.

Neall will continue to serve as a senior adviser on the budget – an unpaid,

informal position, according to a spokesman for Hogan.

The Brinkley appointment could pose problems for Hogan from within his own party.

Sen. Michael Hough, R-Frederick County, defeated Brinkley in a bitter primary in which he accused the incumbent of being too willing to work with Democrats and criticized him for voting for six of O'Malley's eight budgets.

Sources said Hough has repeatedly tried to prevent Brinkley from being appointed to the budget position. Hough was not immediately available for com-

ment.

Hogan, for his part, said he had not discussed the appointment with Hough but said he expects "no problems whatsoever" from his party when it comes to any of his appointments.

Brinkley was one of 22 appointments Hogan made to his senior staff including naming Sam Maholtra secretary if the state Department of Human Resources, Jennie Hunter-Cevera as secretary of the the Maryland Higher Education Commission and Clay Stamp as the director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.