

HOUSE BILL 124

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SB 298/03 - JPR

2004 Regular Session
4lr0427
CF 4lr0381

By: **Delegate Mitchell (Chairman, Joint Audit Committee)**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2004

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 24, 2004

CHAPTER 242

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Attorney General - Prosecution of Criminal Offenses Reported by the Office**
3 **of Legislative Audits**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that the Legislative Auditor report
5 ~~certain alleged violations of law by a unit of State government or other body that~~
6 ~~is audited or reviewed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor under certain~~
7 ~~circumstances; repealing a requirement that the Attorney General respond to~~
8 ~~certain persons regarding certain actions taken by the Attorney General based~~
9 ~~on a certain report by the Legislative Auditor a certain alleged default by an~~
10 ~~officer or employee who is subject to audit or review to the Attorney General and~~
11 ~~a certain State's Attorney; authorizing requiring the Legislative Auditor to~~
12 ~~report to the Attorney General and the State's Attorney any alleged criminal~~
13 ~~violation by a person discovered during the course of an ~~audit or review~~ audit,~~
14 ~~review, or investigation; requiring the Attorney General and the State's Attorney~~
15 ~~to keep a certain report of an alleged criminal violation confidential under~~
16 ~~certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to investigate and~~
17 ~~prosecute any alleged criminal violation reported by the Legislative Auditor~~
18 ~~under certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to exercise all~~
19 ~~the powers and duties of a State's Attorney to investigate and prosecute certain~~
20 ~~alleged criminal violations under certain circumstances; creating an exception to~~
21 ~~certain confidentiality requirements of the Legislative Auditor under certain~~
22 ~~circumstances; and generally relating to the authority of the Attorney General~~
23 ~~to investigate and prosecute certain alleged criminal violations reported by the~~
24 ~~Legislative Auditor under certain circumstances.~~

25 ~~BY repealing~~
26 ~~Article State Government~~
27 ~~Section 2-1225~~

1 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
2 ~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)~~

3 ~~BY adding to~~
4 ~~Article State Government~~
5 ~~Section 2-1225~~
6 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
7 ~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)~~

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - State Government
10 Section 2-1225 and 2-1226
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - State Government**

16 ~~§~~2-1225.

17 (a) (1) In addition to the report under § 2-1224 of this subtitle, the
18 Legislative Auditor shall report an apparent violation of any law on use of State funds
19 by the unit of the State government or other body that is audited or reviewed.

20 (2) A report under this subsection shall be submitted to:

21 (i) the Joint Audit Committee;

22 (ii) the Executive Director;

23 (iii) the unit or body that is the subject of the report; and

24 (iv) the Office of the Attorney General.

25 (b) (1) ~~The Legislative Auditor shall report to the Attorney General and an~~
26 ~~appropriate State's Attorney an apparent default to the State for any money by an~~
27 ~~officer or employee who is subject to audit or review~~ IF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
28 DISCOVERS ANY ALLEGED CRIMINAL VIOLATION BY A PERSON DURING THE COURSE
29 OF AN AUDIT, REVIEW, OR INVESTIGATION, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL
30 REPORT THE ALLEGED VIOLATION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND AN
31 APPROPRIATE STATE'S ATTORNEY.

32 (2) A report under this subsection shall ask the Attorney General and
33 State's Attorney to take appropriate action.

1 (3) UNLESS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR STATE'S ATTORNEY DECIDES
2 TO PROSECUTE AN ALLEGED CRIMINAL VIOLATION REPORTED UNDER THIS
3 SUBSECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL KEEP THE
4 REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR UNDER THIS SUBSECTION CONFIDENTIAL.

5 (4) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ANY
6 ALLEGED CRIMINAL VIOLATION REPORTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AND HAS ALL
7 THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A STATE'S ATTORNEY, INCLUDING THE USE OF A
8 GRAND JURY IN ANY COUNTY OR BALTIMORE CITY, TO INVESTIGATE AND
9 PROSECUTE THE ALLEGED VIOLATION.

10 (c) (1) The Office of the Attorney General shall respond, in writing, to a
11 report received from the Legislative Auditor under this section.

12 (2) The response of the Attorney General shall include what actions, if
13 any, were taken as a result of the findings of the Legislative Auditor.

14 (3) The response of the Attorney General shall be submitted to:

15 (i) the Joint Audit Committee;

16 (ii) the Executive Director;

17 (iii) the unit or body that is the subject of the report; and

18 (iv) the Legislative Auditor.}

19 ~~2-1225.~~

20 (A) ~~IF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR DISCOVERS ANY ALLEGED CRIMINAL~~
21 ~~VIOLATION BY A PERSON DURING THE COURSE OF AN AUDIT OR REVIEW, THE~~
22 ~~LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR MAY REPORT THE ALLEGED VIOLATION TO THE ATTORNEY~~
23 ~~GENERAL.~~

24 (B) ~~UNLESS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DECIDES TO PROSECUTE AN ALLEGED~~
25 ~~CRIMINAL VIOLATION REPORTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE~~
26 ~~ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL KEEP THE REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR~~
27 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION CONFIDENTIAL.~~

28 (C) ~~THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ANY~~
29 ~~ALLEGED CRIMINAL VIOLATION REPORTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS~~
30 ~~SECTION AND HAS ALL THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A STATE'S ATTORNEY,~~
31 ~~INCLUDING THE USE OF A GRAND JURY IN ANY COUNTY OR BALTIMORE CITY, TO~~
32 ~~INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THE ALLEGED VIOLATION.~~

33 2-1226.

34 (a) Except as provided in § 2-1225 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND subsection (b) of this
35 section, information that an employee of the Office of Legislative Audits obtains
36 during an audit or review:

1 (1) is confidential; and

2 (2) may not be disclosed except to another employee of the Office of
3 Legislative Audits.

4 (b) The Legislative Auditor may authorize the disclosure of information
5 obtained during an audit or review only to the following:

6 (1) another employee of the Department, with the approval of the
7 Executive Director;

8 (2) federal, State, or local officials, or their auditors, who provide
9 evidence to the Legislative Auditor that they are performing investigations, studies,
10 or audits related to that same audit or review and who provide justification for the
11 specific information requested; or

12 (3) the Joint Audit Committee, if necessary to assist the Committee in
13 reviewing a report issued by the Legislative Auditor.

14 (c) [If] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1225 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IF information
15 that an employee obtains during an audit or review also is confidential under another
16 law, the employee or the Legislative Auditor may not include in a report or otherwise
17 use the information in any manner that discloses the identity of any person who is the
18 subject of the confidential information.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
20 effect October 1, 2004.