HOUSE BILL 84

P1, P5 6lr1284 CF SB 116

By: The Speaker (By Request - Department of Legislative Services)

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 9, 2016

CHA	PTE	$^{\mathrm{lR}}$	
-----	-----	------------------	--

1 AN ACT concerning

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

State Government – Office of Legislative Audits – Alterations in Audit Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering the time period during which the Office of Legislative Audits and the Legislative Auditor are required to audit certain State funds, programs, authorities, units, and a certain local liquor board; altering the statutory authority under which the Office of Legislative Audits and the Legislative Auditor are required to audit certain funds, programs, and units; repealing the requirement that the Office of Legislative Audits and the Legislative Auditor perform certain audits of certain licensees, funds, and agencies; repealing the requirement for the Office of Legislative Audits to approve certain independent auditors selected by certain corporations and centers; repealing the requirement for the Legislative Auditor to concur on certain audits of community colleges performed by certain auditors in order for the audits to meet a certain requirement; repealing the requirement for the Legislative Auditor to certify a certain form completed by a certain hospital; altering the time period during which a certain corporation is required to maintain possession and custody of certain documents related to a certain audit; authorizing, rather than requiring, the Legislative Auditor to conduct certain post audit examinations and fiscal/compliance audits of certain funds; repealing the requirement for the Office of Legislative Audits and the Legislative Auditor to evaluate, audit, and summarize certain information from certain offices and agencies; altering the time period during which the Office of Legislative Audits is required to conduct a fiscal/compliance audit of each unit of the State government, except for units in the Legislative Branch; repealing the requirement for the Legislative Auditor to evaluate the utilization of certain funds allocated to certain businesses; repealing the authorization for the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 2 3	Legislative Auditor to audit certain accounts of a certain system and certain administrations; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to alterations in audit requirements for the Office of Legislative Audits.
4 5 6	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Agriculture Section 2–505(a)
7 8	Annotated Code of Maryland (2007 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
9	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10	Article – Agriculture
11	Section $2-505(h)$
12	Annotated Code of Maryland
13	(2007 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
14	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15	Article – Business Regulation
16	Section 4.5–203(a)(1), 4.5–703(a), and 11–101(i)
17	Annotated Code of Maryland
18	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
19	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20	Article – Business Regulation
21	Section 4.5–203(c) and 4.5–703(e)
22	Annotated Code of Maryland
23	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
24	BY repealing
25	Article – Business Regulation
26	Section 11–313(d)
27	Annotated Code of Maryland
28	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
29	BY repealing
30	Article – Correctional Services
31	Section 3–510
32	Annotated Code of Maryland
33	(2008 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
34	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
35	Article – Economic Development
36	Section 10–201(b), 10–401(c), 10–501(f), 10–806(a), and 10–901(c)
37	Annotated Code of Maryland
38	(2008 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

39

1	Article – Economic Development
2	Section 10–227, 10–414, 10–526, 10–825, and 10–911
3	Annotated Code of Maryland
4	(2008 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
5	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
6	Article – Education
7	Section 16–315(b)
8	Annotated Code of Maryland
9	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
0	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
1	Article – Education
2	Section 16–315(f)
13	Annotated Code of Maryland
4	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
15	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
6	Article – Environment
. 7	Section 9–1605(a)(1) and 9–1605.1(a)(1)
18	Annotated Code of Maryland
19	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
20	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21	Article – Environment
22	Section 9–1605(a)(6) and 9–1605.1(a)(6)
23	Annotated Code of Maryland
24	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
25	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
26	Article – Health – General
27	Section 13–1303(d)(2), 13–2206(c), and 19–216(b)(1)
28	Annotated Code of Maryland
29	(2015 Replacement Volume)
30	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
31	Article – Health – General
32	Section 19–201(b) and (c) and 19–216(a)
33	Annotated Code of Maryland
34	(2015 Replacement Volume)
35	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
36	Article – Health Occupations
37	Section 14–402(f)
88	Annotated Code of Maryland
39	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

$\frac{1}{2}$	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Human Services
3	Section 11–101(c) and 11–408(a)(2) and (b)(2)
4	Annotated Code of Maryland
5	(2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
0	(2007 Volume and 2019 Supplement)
6	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7	Article – Human Services
8	Section 11–408(b)(4)
9	Annotated Code of Maryland
10	(2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
11	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12	Article – Local Government
13	Section 30–102(a)
14	Annotated Code of Maryland
15	(2013 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
10	(2010 Volume and 2010 Eupplement)
16	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17	Article – Local Government
18	Section $30-106(d)(1)$
19	Annotated Code of Maryland
20	(2013 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
01	DV nonceling and reconsisting without amondments
21	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
22	Article – Natural Resources
23	Section 3–302(a)(1)
24	Annotated Code of Maryland
25	(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
26	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
27	Article – Natural Resources
28	Section 3–302(e)
29	Annotated Code of Maryland
30	(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
31	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
32	Article – Public Safety
33	Section 1–309(f)(1) and 2–514
34	Annotated Code of Maryland
35	(2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
36	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
37	Article – Public Utilities
38	Section $7-512.1(a)(1)$
39	Annotated Code of Maryland
40	(2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
T U	(2010 Replacement volume and 2010 Supplement)

1	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2	Article – Public Utilities
3	Section $7-512.1(c)(4)$
4	Annotated Code of Maryland
5	(2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
6	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7	Article – State Finance and Procurement
8	Section 2–701
9	Annotated Code of Maryland
10	(2015 Replacement Volume)
11	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12	Article – State Finance and Procurement
13	Section 2–702(b) and $3A-506(g)(1)$
14	Annotated Code of Maryland
15	(2015 Replacement Volume)
16	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17	Article – State Government
18	Section 2–1220, 9–1A–34, and 9–1A–35(f)
19	Annotated Code of Maryland
20	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
21	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
22	Article – State Government
23	Section 9–101(b) and (c) and 9–1A–35(a)
24	Annotated Code of Maryland
25	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
26	BY repealing
27	Article – State Government
28	Section 9–121
29	Annotated Code of Maryland
30	(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
31	BY repealing
32	Article – State Personnel and Pensions
33	Section 21–127
34	Annotated Code of Maryland
35	(2015 Replacement Volume)
36	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
37	Article – Transportation
38	Section 5–101(b), 6–101(b), and 7–101(b)
39	Annotated Code of Maryland

1	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
T	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
2	BY repealing
3	Article – Transportation
4	Section 5–215.1, 6–212.1, and 7–211.1
5 6	Annotated Code of Maryland
6	(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
7	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
9	Article – Agriculture
0	2–505.
1	(a) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund is created and continued
12	for the purposes specified in this subtitle.
13	(h) The Fund [shall be audited annually] IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT by the
4	Legislative Auditor [in the manner prescribed by law] AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1220 OF THE
15	STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.
6	Article – Business Regulation
17	4.5-203.
18	(a) (1) There is a Home Builder Registration Fund.
	(a) (1) There is a frome Banaer registration I are
9	(c) The [Office of Legislative Audits shall audit the] accounts and transactions of
20	the Registration Fund [under §] SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE LEGISLATIVE
21	AUDITOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 2–1220 THROUGH 2–1227 of the State Government
22	Article.
23	4.5–703.
24	(a) The Division shall:
25	(1) establish a Home Builder Guaranty Fund; and
26	(2) maintain the Guaranty Fund at a level of at least \$1,000,000.
27 28 29	(e) The [Office of Legislative Audits shall audit the] accounts and transactions of the Guaranty Fund [under §] SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 2–1220 THROUGH 2–1227 of the State Government Article

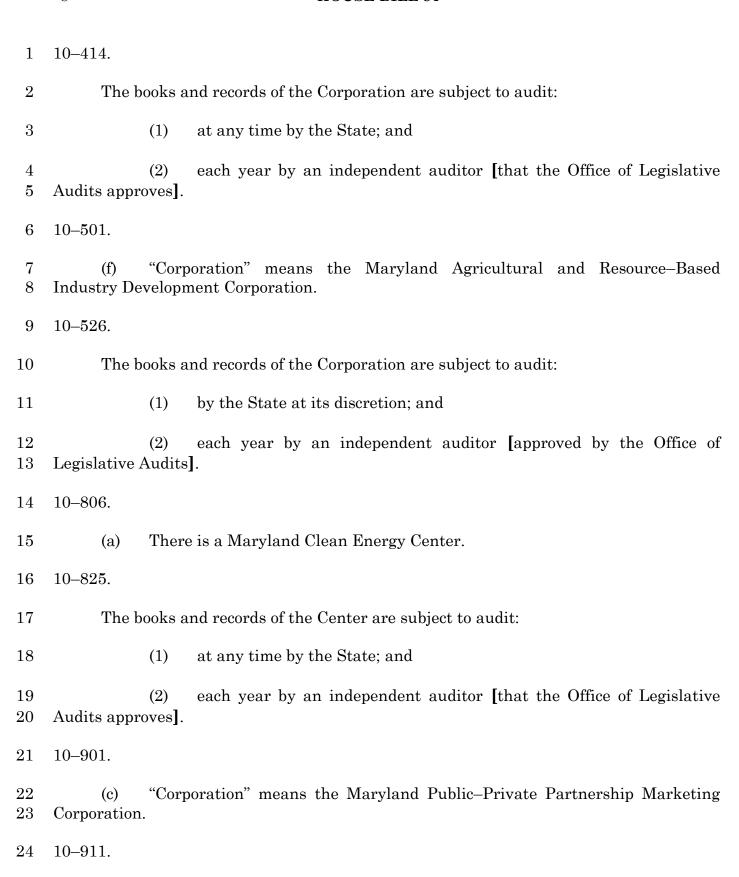
- 1 11–101.
- 2 (i) "Licensee" means a person who has been awarded racing days for the current 3 calendar year.
- 4 11–313.
- 5 **[**(d) The Office of Legislative Audits shall audit each licensee at least once every 2 6 years in accordance with the provisions of §§ 2–1217 through 2–1227 of the State
- 7 Government Article.

8 Article - Correctional Services

- 9 [3–510.
- 10 (a) The Legislative Auditor shall conduct audits of Maryland Correctional
- 11 Enterprises in accordance with Title 2, Subtitle 12, Part IV of the State Government Article.
- 12 (b) The Legislative Auditor shall advise officials of Maryland Correctional
- 13 Enterprises of the frequency of audits to be conducted.
- 14 (c) Maryland Correctional Enterprises shall bear the cost of the fiscal portion of
- 15 a post audit examination.]

16 Article - Economic Development

- 17 10–201.
- 18 (b) "Authority" means the Maryland Food Center Authority.
- 19 10-227.
- 20 [(a)] The Legislative Auditor[:
- 21 (1)] may conduct a fiscal and compliance audit of the accounts and
- 22 transactions of the Authority [yearly or every 2 years; and
- 23 (2) shall advise officials of the Authority whether the audit will be yearly
- 24 or every 2 years.
- 25 (b) The Authority shall pay the cost of the fiscal part of the post audit
- 26 examination AS PROVIDED IN § 2–1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.
- 27 10–401.
- 28 (c) "Corporation" means the Maryland Technology Development Corporation.



The books and records of the Corporation are subject to audit:

- 1 (1) at any time by the State; and
- 2 (2) each year by an independent auditor [that the Office of Legislative
- 3 Audits approves].

Article – Education

5 16-315.

4

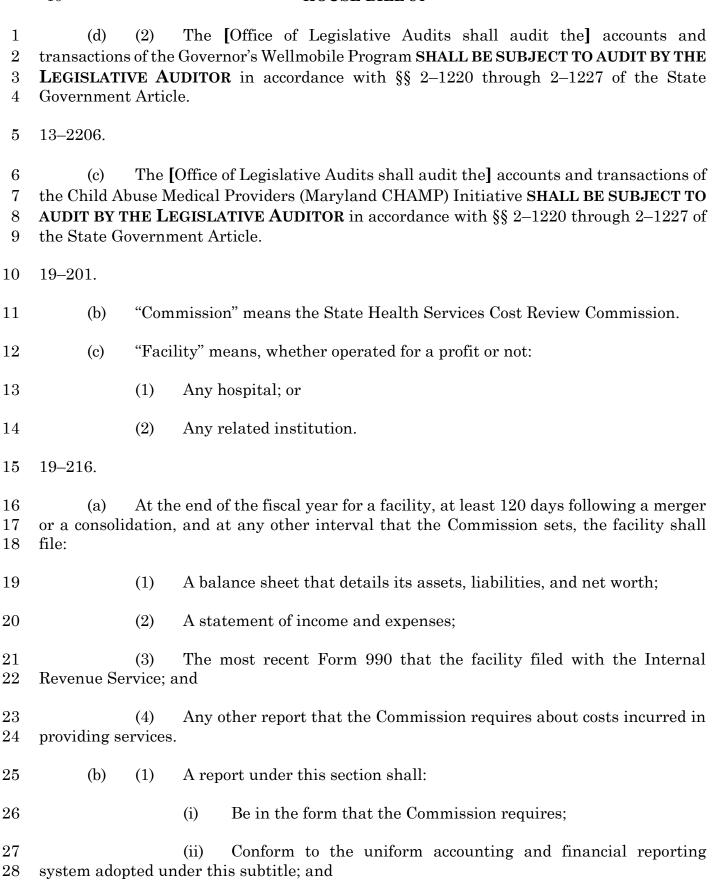
- 6 (b) Each community college in the State shall have an annual audit of its books of accounts, accounting procedures and principles, and other fiscal and operational methods and procedures in accordance with guidelines as prescribed by the Commission. A copy of the audit report, together with the related management letter, shall be submitted to the Commission for review and assessment and to the Legislative Auditor within 90 days of the close of each fiscal year. The Commission shall ascertain that the community colleges are audited in accordance with this section.
- 13 (f) An audit performed by an official auditor of any county or Baltimore City 14 approved by the Commission [with the concurrence of the Legislative Auditor] shall satisfy 15 the annual audit requirement if it otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

16 Article – Environment

- 17 9–1605.
- 18 (a) (1) There is a Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. The Water Quality Fund shall be maintained and administered by the Administration in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle and such rules or program directives as the Secretary or the Board may from time to time prescribe.
- 22 (6) The Water Quality Fund shall be subject to [biennial] audit by the 23 Office of Legislative Audits as provided for in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.
- 24 9-1605.1.
- 25 (a) (1) There is a Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. The 26 Drinking Water Loan Fund shall be maintained and administered by the Administration 27 in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle and such rules or program directives as 28 the Secretary or the Board may from time to time prescribe.
- 29 (6) The Drinking Water Loan Fund shall be subject to [biennial] audit by 30 the Office of Legislative Audits as provided for in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.

31 Article - Health - General

32 13–1303.



Be certified [as follows:

(iii)

$\frac{1}{2}$	1. For the University of Maryland Hospital, by the Legislative Auditor; or
3 4	2. For any other facility, by its] BY THE FACILITY'S certified public accountant.
5	Article - Health Occupations
6	14–402.
7 8 9	(f) The [Legislative Auditor shall every 2 years audit the accounts and transactions of the] Physician Rehabilitation Program IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR as provided in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.
0	Article – Human Services
1	11–101.
2	(c) "Corporation" means the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.
13	11–408.
14 15 16	(a) (2) For any fiscal year during which State funds are available to finance any portion of the operations of the Corporation, the Legislative Auditor may audit the financial transactions of the Corporation.
17 18	(b) (2) If owned or in use by the Corporation and necessary to facilitate the audit, the Corporation shall make available to the Legislative Auditor all:
9	(i) books;
20	(ii) accounts;
21	(iii) financial records;
22	(iv) reports;
23	(v) files; and
24	(vi) other papers or property.
25 26 27	(4) Unless the Legislative Auditor requires a longer period of retention, the items listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall remain in the possession and custody of the Corporation for [3] 4 years.

- 1 30–102.
- 2 (a) There is a Baltimore City Police Department Death Relief Fund.
- 3 30-106.
- 4 (d) (1) The Fund shall be audited [regularly by the Legislative Auditor and]
- 5 from time to time by an independent certified public accountant that the Board retains.

6 Article - Natural Resources

- 7 3–302.
- 8 (a) (1) There is an Environmental Trust Fund.
- 9 (e) The Legislative Auditor [shall] MAY conduct post audits of a fiscal and 10 compliance nature of the Fund and of the appropriations and expenditures made for the
- 11 purposes of this subtitle. The cost of the fiscal portion of the post audit examinations shall
- 12 be an operating cost of the Fund.

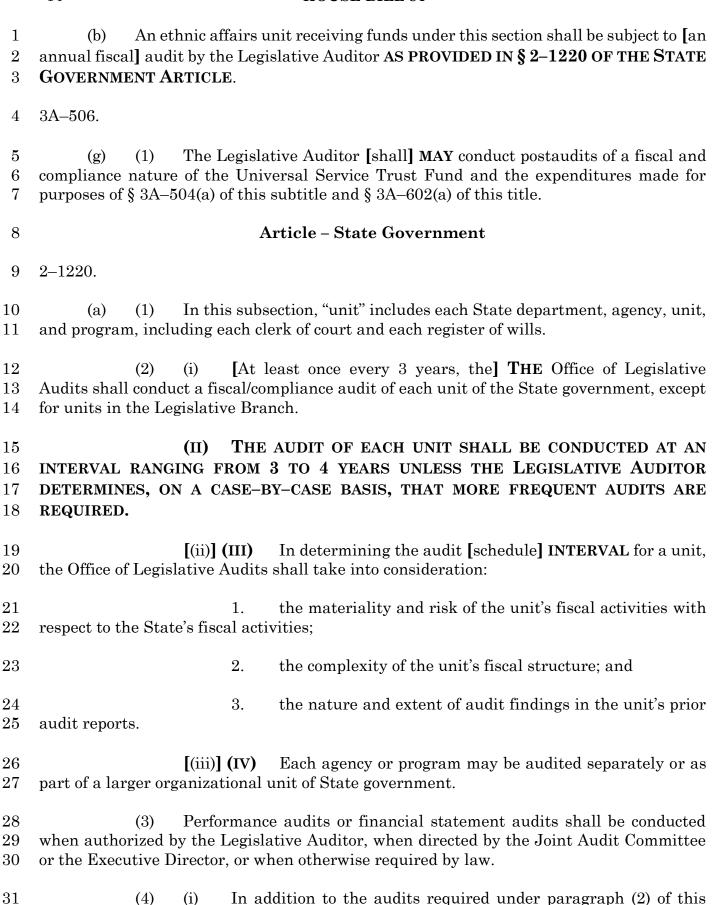
13 Article – Public Safety

- 14 1–309.
- 15 (f) (1) The Legislative Auditor [shall] MAY conduct fiscal/compliance audits of
- 16 the 9-1-1 Trust Fund and of the appropriations and disbursements made for purposes of
- 17 this subtitle.
- 18 2–514.
- 19 (a) On or before April 1, 2010, and on or before April 1 of every even-numbered
- 20 year thereafter, each local law enforcement unit shall report to the Governor's Office of
- 21 Crime Control and Prevention on the status of crime scene DNA collection and analysis in
- 22 its respective jurisdiction for the preceding calendar year, and the Department shall report
- 23 to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention on the status of crime scene DNA
- 24 collection statewide for the preceding calendar year, including:
- 25 (1) the crimes for which crime scene DNA evidence is routinely collected;
- 26 (2) the approximate number of crime scene DNA evidence samples 27 collected during the preceding year for each category of crime;
- 28 (3) the average time between crime scene DNA evidence collection and 29 analysis;

1 the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples collected and not (4) 2analyzed at the time of the study; 3 the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples submitted to the 4 statewide DNA data base during the preceding year; and 5 the number of crime scene DNA evidence samples, including sexual 6 assault evidence, collected by hospitals in the county during the preceding year. 7 [(1)] The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall compile 8 the information reported by the local law enforcement units and the Department under 9 subsection (a) of this section and [submit the information to the Office of Legislative Audits. 10 The Office of Legislative Audits shall evaluate the information received **(2)** under paragraph (1) of this subsection and submit an annual summary report to the 11 12 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General 13 Assembly. Article - Public Utilities 14 7-512.1.15 16 (a) (1) The Commission shall establish an electric universal service program 17 to assist electric customers with annual incomes at or below 175% of the federal poverty 18 level. 19 (c) **(4)** The Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct an audit of the electric 20 universal service program [at least once every 3 years and shall report the results of the audit SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS in 21accordance with [§ 2–1224] §§ 2–1220 THROUGH 2–1227 of the State Government Article. 2223 **Article - State Finance and Procurement** 2-701.24In this subtitle, "ethnic affairs unit" means: 2526 (1)the Commission on African American History and Culture; 27(2)the Commission on Indian Affairs; and the Office of Asian-Pacific American Affairs. 28(3)

29

2-702.



subsection, the Office of Legislative Audits may conduct a review when the objectives of the

- work to be performed can be satisfactorily fulfilled without conducting an audit as prescribed in § 2–1221 of this subtitle.
- 3 (ii) 1. The Office of Legislative Audits has the authority to conduct a separate investigation of an act or allegation of fraud, waste, or abuse in the obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use of State resources.
- 6 2. The Legislative Auditor shall determine whether an investigation shall be conducted in conjunction with an audit undertaken in accordance with this subsection or separately.
- 9 (5) If, on request of the Comptroller, the Joint Audit Committee so directs, 10 the Office of Legislative Audits shall audit or review a claim that has been presented to the 11 Comptroller for payment of an expenditure or disbursement and that is alleged to have 12 been made by or for an officer or unit of the State government.
- 13 (6) The Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct an audit or review to 14 determine the accuracy of information about or procedures of a unit of the State 15 government, as directed by the Joint Audit Committee or the Executive Director.
- 16 (b) If the General Assembly, by resolution, or the Joint Audit Committee so 17 directs, the Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct an audit or review of a corporation or 18 association to which the General Assembly has appropriated money or that has received 19 funds from an appropriation from the State Treasury.
- 20 (c) The Office of Legislative Audits may audit any county officer or unit that 21 collects State taxes.
- 22 (d) (1) The Office of Legislative Audits shall review any audit report prepared 23 under the authority of:
- 24 (i) §§ 16–305 through 16–308 of the Local Government Article, with 25 respect to a county, municipal corporation, or taxing district; or
- 26 (ii) § 16–315 of the Education Article, with respect to a community college.
- 28 (2) The results of any review made by the Office of Legislative Audits under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be reported as provided in § 2–1224 of this subtitle.
- 30 (e) (1) At least once every 6 years, the Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct an audit of each local school system to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial management practices of the local school system.

(2) The audits may be performed concurrently or separately.

- 1 (3) The Office of Legislative Audits shall provide information regarding the 2 audit process to the local school system before the audit is conducted.
- 3 (f) (1) At least once every [3] 4 years, the Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct a performance audit of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the management practices of the Board and of the economy with which the Board uses resources.
- 7 (2) The performance audit shall focus on operations relating to liquor 8 inspections, licensing, disciplinary procedures, and management oversight.
- 9 9–101.
- 10 (b) "Agency" means the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency.
- 11 (c) "Commission" means the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission.
- 12 **[**9–121.
- 13 (a) (1) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions of the 14 Agency as provided in § 2–1220 of this article.
- 15 (2) If the Legislative Auditor gives the Agency advance notice, the 16 Legislative Auditor may conduct annually a fiscal and compliance audit of the accounts and 17 transactions of the Agency.
- 18 (b) The Agency shall pay the cost of the fiscal part of each audit.]
- 19 9-1A-34.
- [(a)] The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and, subject to \$2-1246 of this article, to the General Assembly:
- 22 (1) on the operation and finances of the video lottery facilities;
- 23 (2) with the assistance of local police departments and the Department of 24 State Police, detailing the crimes that occur within the communities surrounding a video 25 lottery facility; and
- 26 (3) on the attainment of minority business participation goals specified for licensees under § 9–1A–10(a)(1) and (2) of this subtitle and the efforts by licensees to maintain those goals.
- [(b) Each fiscal year the Legislative Auditor shall audit and evaluate the information submitted to the Commission by licensees under subsection (a)(3) of this section, with special emphasis on the licensee's utilization of contractors across a broad

- spectrum of its business activities, including those that are functionally related to the gaming industry.
- 3 9-1A-35.
- 4 (a) There is a Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses Account under the 5 authority of the Board of Public Works.
- (f) [Each fiscal year the] **THE** Legislative Auditor shall audit [and evaluate] the utilization of the funds that are allocated to small, minority, and women—owned businesses by eligible fund managers under subsection (c)(3) of this section **DURING AN AUDIT OF**THE APPLICABLE STATE UNIT AS PROVIDED IN § 2–1220 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

- 11 **[**21–127.
- 12 The Legislative Auditor:
- 13 (1) may conduct an annual or biennial fiscal and compliance audit of the accounts and transactions of the several systems; and
- 15 (2) shall advise officials of the several systems whether the audit will be 16 annual or biennial.

Article - Transportation

18 5–101.

17

- 19 (b) "Administration" means the Maryland Aviation Administration.
- 20 [5–215.1.
- At his discretion, the Legislative Auditor may conduct an annual audit of a fiscal and compliance nature of the accounts and transactions of the Administration in place of conducting these audits on a biennial basis. Officials of the Administration shall be advised whether annual or biennial audits will be conducted. The cost of the fiscal portion of the post audit examinations shall be borne by the Administration.
- 26 6–101.
- (b) "Administration" means the Maryland Port Administration.
- 28 [6–212.1.

1 2 3 4 5	At his discretion, the Legislative Auditor may conduct an annual audit of a fiscal and compliance nature of the accounts and transactions of the Administration in place of conducting these audits on a biennial basis. Officials of the Administration shall be advised whether annual or biennial audits will be conducted. The cost of the fiscal portion of the post audit examinations shall be borne by the Administration.]
6	7–101.
7	(b) "Administration" means the Maryland Transit Administration.
8	[7–211.1.
9 10 11 12 13	At his discretion, the Legislative Auditor may conduct an annual audit of a fiscal an compliance nature of the accounts and transactions of the Administration in place conducting these audits on a biennial basis. Officials of the Administration shall be advise whether annual or biennial audits will be conducted. The cost of the fiscal portion of the post audit examinations shall be borne by the Administration.]
14 15	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect Jul 1, 2016.
	Approved: Governor.
	Charles of the House of Delegates
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.