Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 746	**DATE:**	February 12, 2024
SUBJECT:	Education – Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education – Powers and Notifications	**COMMITTEE:**	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Information Only		
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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 746 – Education – Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) – Powers and Notifications, which allows the OIGE to seek assistance from and work jointly with any government agency as it conducts its investigations.

To this end, the legislation stipulates that the Inspector General (IG), with the agreement of the State Superintendent, could temporarily detail an MSDE employee to the OIGE office to perform an investigation, budgetary analysis, and financial, management, or performance audit or similar review, and undertake any project jointly with OIGE.

The Maryland State Department of Education estimates that detailing an MSDE employee to the OIGE office to perform OIGE functions would have a potential impact on personnel costs and Agency capacity, as the Department would have to "back-fill" the responsibilities of any employee temporarily assigned to the OIGE. MSDE is unable to estimate the full impact of the legislation at this time, as the potential cost is dependent on the significant amount of time spent by an employee who is detailed to the OIGE office. However, in the absence of being able to find replacement support when an employee is detailed, MSDE Offices and Divisions would face new capacity challenges in moving forward with existing bodies of work and key priorities of the Agency and State.

MSDE respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 746**. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne at 410-767-0504, or Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.