

HOUSE BILL 352

P5

6lr1830

By: **Delegates Ghrist, Arentz, Hornberger, S. Howard, and Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Legislative Audits – Local School System Audits – Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the Office of Legislative Audits conduct
4 audits of certain local school systems within certain periods of time; repealing the
5 requirement for the Legislative Auditor to appoint professional staff to conduct
6 audits of local school systems; repealing the authorization for the Office of
7 Legislative Audits to have access to certain information to perform audits of local
8 school systems; repealing the requirement for the Office of Legislative Audits to
9 provide certain information to a local school system and the Joint Audit Committee
10 following a certain review; repealing the authorization for the Joint Audit Committee
11 to take certain actions relating to a certain review; making conforming changes; and
12 generally relating to the repeal of audits of local school systems by the Office of
13 Legislative Audits.

14 BY repealing

15 Article – State Government
16 Section 2–1219(c), 2–1220(e), and 2–1224(g)(7) through (9)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – State Government
21 Section 2–1223(a)(3)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

24 BY renumbering

25 Article – State Government
26 Section 2–1220(f)
27 to be Section 2–1220(e)
28 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – State Government

2–1219.

[(c) With the approval of the Executive Director, the Legislative Auditor shall appoint professional staff to conduct audits of local school systems in accordance with § 2–1220(e) of this subtitle.]

2–1220.

[(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.

(3) The Office of Legislative Audits shall provide information regarding the audit process to the local school system before the audit is conducted.]

2–1223.

(a) (3) The employees or authorized representatives of the Office of Legislative Audits shall have access to and may inspect the records, including those that are confidential by law, of:

(i) any local school system [to perform the audits authorized under § 2–1220 of this subtitle or] in accordance with a request for information as provided in § 5–114(d) of the Education Article; and

(ii) the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to perform the audits authorized under [§ 2–1220(f)] **§ 2–1220(E)** of this subtitle.

2–1224.

(g) [(7) The Legislative Auditor shall review each local school system’s response to an audit conducted under § 2–1220(e) of this subtitle and advise the local school system of the results of the review. The Legislative Auditor shall advise the Joint Audit Committee when a local school system:

(i) does not make a response to a recommendation;

1 (ii) does not indicate action to be taken in response to a
2 recommendation;

3 (iii) has not taken the action the local school system indicated in its
4 response to a recommendation; or

5 (iv) responds in a manner that is not considered appropriate to carry
6 out the recommendation.

7 (8) The Executive Director or the Joint Audit Committee may direct the
8 Legislative Auditor to undertake a review to determine the extent to which action has been
9 taken by a local school system to implement a report recommendation.

10 (9) With respect to findings and recommendations made to a local school
11 system, the Joint Audit Committee may make recommendations to the Governor, State
12 Superintendent of Schools, the local school governing board, or local school officials after
13 reviewing a local school system's response to a recommended action.]

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 2-1220(f) of Article
15 – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s)
16 2-1220(e).

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2016.