

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 344 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Montgomery County - Authority of County Council Over Inspector General -
Housing Opportunities Commission**
MC 7-19

This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Council to, by local law, give the Inspector General of Montgomery County the same authority over the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) that the inspector general has over a department of the county government.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill conforms State law to local law.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General was established in 1997 to combat fraud while enhancing productivity and efficiency of programs within the Montgomery County government and its independent agencies. This is generally done through investigations, budgetary analysis, performance audits, and other similar reviews. Both Montgomery County and independent county agencies are obligated to provide

information to the inspector general when requested (barring restrictions on public disclosure of the requested information as required by federal or State law). The inspector general must submit a report by October 1 annually to the Montgomery County Council and the County Executive of its major findings and recommendations from the prior fiscal year.

Montgomery County advises that, although the county code already gives the inspector general oversight authority over HOC, State authorization is required to enforce that provision because HOC was established under State, not local, law.

Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County

HOC is the public housing agency for Montgomery County. Established in 1974, the commission administers federal, State, county, and private affordable housing programs. In addition, it develops housing; provides mortgage financing to developers and first-time homebuyers; manages public housing and other rental units; administers rental subsidy programs (including the Housing Choice Voucher Program); and provides counseling and support services to lower income individuals and families in assisted housing.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County; Department of Legislative Services

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