

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 440 (Senator Lam)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Anne Arundel County - Office of the Inspector General - Establishment

This bill requires the Anne Arundel County Council to establish an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in the county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by a significant amount beginning in FY 2026. Based on the experience in other charter counties with an OIG, the annual increase in county expenditures could total approximately \$1.0 million. Anne Arundel County revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Anne Arundel County Council must enact a local law that establishes:

- the qualifications for the inspector general;
- the term of an OIG;
- the powers and duties of the office; and
- any other requirement the county council considers necessary for the operation of the office.

The Anne Arundel County annual operating budget proposal must include a projected budget for the office for the upcoming fiscal year.

The bill also establishes an OIG Advisory Board that consists of seven members appointed by the county executive and subject to confirmation by the county council. The advisory board must select and appoint the inspector general and may remove the inspector general only for neglect of duty, malfeasance, conviction of a felony, or other good cause. The selection, appointment, or removal of the inspector general requires a majority vote of the advisory board.

Current Law: Anne Arundel County is one of 11 counties in the State that along with Baltimore City operate under a charter home rule form of government. Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Local Government Article describes the express powers granted to charter counties under Article XI-A, § 2 of the Maryland Constitution. The Express Powers Act grants powers to charter counties to legislate and administer over local affairs. Anne Arundel County has the authority to establish an OIG via the express powers already granted to it by the General Assembly.

Local Fiscal Effect: Anne Arundel County did not provide an estimate on the costs of establishing and maintaining an OIG. However, based on the experience in other charter counties with an OIG, the annual increase in county expenditures could total approximately \$1.0 million.

For comparative purposes, the Department of Legislative Services reviewed the fiscal 2025 operating budgets of jurisdictions that have already established an OIG. The budgeted costs in these jurisdictions total \$3.6 million in Montgomery County, \$2.7 million in Baltimore City, and \$875,000 in Baltimore County.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2025
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