

HOUSE BILL 1064

P1

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By: **Delegates Bagnall, Cullison, D. Jones, and Shetty**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Office of the Inspector General; transferring
4 the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education and the Maryland Office
5 of the Inspector General for Health to be within the Maryland Office of the Inspector
6 General; providing for the appointment, qualifications, salary, and term of office of
7 the Inspector General of the State; providing for the employment of certain staff by
8 the Inspector General; establishing provisions related to the powers and duties of
9 the Inspector General; requiring certain units to cooperate fully with the Inspector
10 General in certain investigations, audits, and reviews; protecting certain records
11 prepared or obtained by the Inspector General from disclosure under the Public
12 Information Act; extending certain whistleblower protections to certain State
13 employees who make a complaint or provide information to the Inspector General or
14 staff of the Office; authorizing the Governor to transfer certain positions and funds
15 to the Office; providing certain protections for employees who are transferred to the
16 Office; and generally relating to the Maryland Office of the Inspector General.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Education
19 Section 9.10–102 and 9.10–103(f)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY repealing
23 Article – Education
24 Section 9.10–104(j)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
28 Article – Health – General

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 2–502 and 2–502.1(f)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

4 BY adding to
5 Article – State Government
6 Section 7.5–101 through 7.5–111 to be under the new title “Title 7.5. Inspector
7 General”
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
12 Section 5–305, 5–306, and 5–313
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 9.10–102.

19 (a) There is a Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education **IN THE**
20 **MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

21 (b) **[The Office is an independent unit of the State.**

22 (c) **The purpose of the Office is to provide accountability and transparency in the**
23 **expenditure of public funds for education in the State.**

24 **[(d) All expenses and operations related to the administration of the Office shall**
25 **be separately identified and independent of any other unit of State government.]**

26 9.10–103.

27 (f) **[(1) The Inspector General is entitled to the salary provided in the State**
28 **budget.**

29 **[(2) Funding for the Office shall be as provided in the State budget.]**

30 9.10–104.

Article – State Government

TITLE 7.5. INSPECTOR GENERAL.

7.5–101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “INSPECTOR GENERAL” MEANS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE STATE.

(C) “OFFICE” MEANS THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(D) “UNIT” MEANS AN AGENCY OR A UNIT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

7.5–102.

(A) THERE IS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE STATE.

(B) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO BE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL EXECUTES AN AFFIDAVIT STATING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WILL NOT ACCEPT APPOINTMENT TO, OR BE A CANDIDATE FOR, A STATE OR LOCAL OFFICE:

(I) DURING THE PERIOD OF SERVICE AS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL; AND

(II) FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL LAST SERVES AS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(2) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL RENEW THE AFFIDAVIT EVERY 2 YEARS DURING THE PERIOD OF SERVICE.

(3) A FAILURE TO RENEW THE AFFIDAVIT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SUBJECT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL TO REMOVAL FROM OFFICE UNDER THIS SECTION.

(C) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE APPOINTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE GOVERNOR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE STATE TREASURER, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

1 **(2) THE TERM OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS 5 YEARS, BEGINNING**
2 **JULY 1 AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

3 **(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL**
4 **CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.**

5 **(4) IF A VACANCY OCCURS IN THE OFFICE, AN INTERIM INSPECTOR**
6 **GENERAL SHALL BE APPOINTED AS A SUCCESSOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE**
7 **UNEXPIRED TERM.**

8 **(D) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY BE REMOVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE**
9 **GOVERNOR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE STATE TREASURER FOR:**

10 **(1) MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;**

11 **(2) PERSISTENT FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE;**

12 **OR**

13 **(3) CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF**
14 **JUSTICE.**

15 **(E) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED**
16 **THROUGH EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING**
17 **AREAS:**

18 **(1) LAW;**

19 **(2) AUDITING;**

20 **(3) GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS; OR**

21 **(4) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.**

22 **(F) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS ENTITLED TO:**

23 **(1) THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET; AND**

24 **(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES UNDER THE**
25 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET,**
26 **THAT ARE CONNECTED WITH THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.**

27 **7.5-103.**

1 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

2 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL INCLUDE:

3 (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;

4 (2) STAFF AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET;

5 (3) THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR
6 EDUCATION ESTABLISHED IN TITLE 9.10 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND

7 (4) THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR
8 HEALTH ESTABLISHED IN TITLE 2, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL
9 ARTICLE.

10 (C) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SUPERVISE AND DIRECT THE OFFICE.

11 (D) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ESTABLISH OFFICE SPACE THAT
12 THE STATE SHALL MAINTAIN AND EQUIP.

13 (2) FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
14 BUDGET.

15 7.5-104.

16 (A) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY EMPLOY A STAFF IN
17 ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

18 (2) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THIS SECTION:

19 (I) SHALL:

20 1. PERFORM THE DUTIES THAT THE INSPECTOR
21 GENERAL ASSIGNS; AND

22 2. CARRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE
23 STAFF AS EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE;

24 (II) SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;
25 AND

26 (III) ARE ENTITLED TO:

1 1. COMPENSATION AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET;
2 AND

3 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
4 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

5 (B) FROM AMONG THE EMPLOYEES ON THE STAFF, THE INSPECTOR
6 GENERAL MAY DESIGNATE ONE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL AND ONE OR
7 MORE DEPUTY INSPECTORS GENERAL.

8 7.5-105.

9 (A) THE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SERVE AS ACTING
10 INSPECTOR GENERAL IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS TEMPORARILY UNABLE OR
11 UNAVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

12 (B) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL GIVES THE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR
13 GENERAL WRITTEN NOTICE OF A TEMPORARY INABILITY OR UNAVAILABILITY:

14 (1) THE ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SERVE ON AND AFTER
15 THE DATE THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SETS IN THE NOTICE AND UNTIL THE
16 INSPECTOR GENERAL GIVES THE ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL WRITTEN NOTICE
17 THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE
18 OFFICE; AND

19 (2) THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY NOT BE DEEMED
20 VACANT.

21 7.5-106.

22 (A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL:

23 (1) RECEIVE COMPLAINTS OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,
24 MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION IN THE UNITS; AND

25 (2) ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE HOTLINE NUMBER AND WEBSITE
26 THROUGH WHICH ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS MAY BE FILED.

27 (B) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT UNDER
28 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL DETERMINE
29 WHETHER THE COMPLAINT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.

1 (C) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL DISCOVERS EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL
2 ACTIVITY WHEN INVESTIGATING A COMPLAINT, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL
3 NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

4 **7.5-107.**

5 (A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

6 (1) MAY INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,
7 MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION IN THE UNITS;

8 (2) MAY CONDUCT AUDITS OF THE UNITS;

9 (3) (I) SHALL COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UNITS
10 OR OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCIES; AND

11 (II) IF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF WASTE,
12 MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION ESTABLISHES A
13 SUFFICIENT BASIS TO WARRANT REFERRAL, SHALL REFER THE MATTER TO THE
14 APPROPRIATE STATE OR FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS; AND

15 (4) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES UNDER ITEMS (1) THROUGH (3) OF
16 THIS SUBSECTION, SHALL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT A PERSON OR UNIT
17 SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE IS NOT SUBJECT TO DUPLICATIVE
18 INVESTIGATIONS OR AUDITS.

19 (B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF
20 THE SOURCE OF A COMPLAINT OR INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER § 7.5-106 OF
21 THIS TITLE UNLESS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

22 (I) OBTAINS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE SOURCE; OR

23 (II) DETERMINES THAT DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE
24 SOURCE IS NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE DURING THE COURSE OF THE
25 INVESTIGATION.

26 (2) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL DETERMINES THAT DISCLOSURE OF
27 THE IDENTITY OF A SOURCE IS NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE, THE INSPECTOR
28 GENERAL SHALL NOTIFY THE SOURCE IN WRITING AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE
29 DISCLOSURE.

30 (C) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL PERIODICALLY SHALL:

1 **(1) REVIEW THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE UNITS; AND**

2 **(2) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE POLICIES AND**
3 **PROCEDURES OF THE UNITS.**

4 **7.5-108.**

5 **(A) A UNIT SHALL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN**
6 **AN INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT THAT IS CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE.**

7 **(B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL RECORDS,**
8 **DATA, REPORTS, CONTRACTS, CORRESPONDENCE, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS OF A**
9 **UNIT DURING AN INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE.**

10 **(C) IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL,**
11 **THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S DESIGNEE MAY:**

12 **(1) SEEK AND OBTAIN SWORN TESTIMONY;**

13 **(2) COMPEL THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES TO BE DEPOSED BY THE**
14 **OFFICE; AND**

15 **(3) COMPEL THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY ISSUING A SUBPOENA**
16 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

17 **(D) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ISSUE A SUBPOENA OR SUBPOENA**
18 **DUCES TECUM ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF A JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR**
19 **THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE OFFICE IS LOCATED.**

20 **(2) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN**
21 **APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL SOUGHT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
22 **SUBSECTION.**

23 **(3) A CIRCUIT COURT SHALL ISSUE A WRITTEN DECISION ON AN**
24 **APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION WITHIN 72**
25 **HOURS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION.**

26 **(4) A SUBPOENA ISSUED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL UNDER THIS**
27 **SUBSECTION MAY BE SERVED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A SUBPOENA ISSUED BY A**
28 **CIRCUIT COURT.**

1 **(E) IF A PERSON REFUSES TO OBEY A SUBPOENA ISSUED BY THE INSPECTOR**
2 **GENERAL UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT THAT APPROVED**
3 **THE ISSUANCE OF THE SUBPOENA UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION MAY:**

4 **(1) ISSUE AN ORDER TO THE PERSON REQUIRING THE PERSON TO**
5 **APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT TO SHOW CAUSE; AND**

6 **(2) AFTER CONDUCTING A HEARING, GRANT APPROPRIATE RELIEF.**

7 **7.5–109.**

8 **(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT**
9 **THIS TITLE.**

10 **(B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL:**

11 **(1) DEVELOP AN OPERATIONS MANUAL THAT CONFORMS TO THE**
12 **STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL;**

13 **(2) MAKE THE OPERATIONS MANUAL AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON**
14 **THE OFFICE’S WEBSITE; AND**

15 **(3) PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR THE UNITS.**

16 **7.5–110.**

17 **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, RECORDS**
18 **PREPARED OR OBTAINED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH AN**
19 **INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND**
20 **NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT UNTIL THE**
21 **FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT IS ISSUED UNDER § 7.5–111(B) OF**
22 **THIS TITLE.**

23 **(B) IF AN INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS A PUBLIC RECORD UNDER THE PUBLIC**
24 **INFORMATION ACT AND THE ONLY COPY OF THE PUBLIC RECORD HAS BEEN**
25 **OBTAINED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE CUSTODIAN OF THE PUBLIC RECORD**
26 **SHALL CERTIFY THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ONLY**
27 **COPY OF THE RECORD AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL ALLOW THE**
28 **INDIVIDUAL TO EXAMINE AND COPY THE RECORD.**

29 **(C) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DISCLOSES A RECORD PROTECTED FROM**
30 **DISCLOSURE UNDER THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND IS SUBJECT**

1 TO A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT TO EXCEED 1 YEAR OR
2 BOTH.

3 7.5-111.

4 (A) (1) AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
5 SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
6 § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7 (2) THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL:

8 (I) DESCRIBE THE BUSINESS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
9 OFFICE DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR; AND

10 (II) INCLUDE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
11 ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITS THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONSIDERS
12 APPROPRIATE.

13 (B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT ON AN
14 INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT COMPLETED BY THE OFFICE.

15 (2) THE FINAL REPORT ISSUED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
16 SUBSECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
17 § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

18 (3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
19 PARAGRAPH, BEFORE RELEASING A FINAL REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
20 SUBSECTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
21 THE UNIT THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT TO RESPOND
22 TO THE REPORT.

23 (II) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE
24 AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH
25 IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
26 AN ATTORNEY GENERAL, A STATE'S ATTORNEY, OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE
27 PROSECUTORIAL AGENCY, DETERMINES THAT ALLOWING THE UNIT TO RESPOND
28 WOULD JEOPARDIZE A PENDING OR POTENTIAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.

29 (C) A REPORT ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR (B) OF THIS SECTION
30 SHALL BE POSTED TO THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE.

31 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

32 5-305.

1 Subject to the limitations of § 5–306 of this subtitle, a supervisor, appointing
2 authority, or the head of a principal unit may not take or refuse to take any personnel
3 action as a reprisal against:

4 (1) an employee who discloses information that the employee reasonably
5 believes evidences:

6 (i) an abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or gross waste of
7 money;

8 (ii) a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or

9 (iii) a violation of law;

10 (2) an employee of the Department of Juvenile Services who discloses
11 information to the Director of Juvenile Justice Monitoring or staff of the Office of the
12 Correctional Ombudsman, including the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit relating to the
13 Unit's duties under § 9–4014 of the State Government Article;

14 (3) an employee of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional
15 Services who discloses information to the Correctional Ombudsman or staff of the Office of
16 the Correctional Ombudsman relating to the Office's duties under § 9–4004 of the State
17 Government Article; or

18 (4) **AN EMPLOYEE WHO MAKES A COMPLAINT OR WHO PROVIDES**
19 **INFORMATION TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OR STAFF OF THE**
20 **MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RELATING TO WASTE,**
21 **MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION;**

22 (5) an employee who, following a disclosure under item (1), (2), [or] (3), **OR**
23 **(4)** of this section, seeks a remedy provided under this subtitle or any other law or policy
24 governing the employee's unit.

25 5–306.

26 Section 5–305 of this subtitle applies to a disclosure that is specifically prohibited by
27 law only if that disclosure is made exclusively to the Attorney General **OR THE INSPECTOR**
28 **GENERAL OF THE STATE** in the manner allowed in § 5–313 of this subtitle.

29 5–313.

30 (A) For purposes of this subtitle, the Attorney General shall:

31 (1) designate an assistant Attorney General to receive from applicants and
32 employees any information the disclosure of which is otherwise protected by law;

1 (2) investigate each allegation of illegality or impropriety;

2 (3) take appropriate legal action; and

3 (4) if the investigation concerns an allegation of illegality or impropriety in
4 the Executive Branch, submit a confidential report to the Governor that describes the
5 content of the disclosure.

6 **(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE**
7 **STATE SHALL:**

8 **(1) INVESTIGATE EACH COMPLAINT OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,**
9 **MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION MADE BY AN EMPLOYEE; AND**

10 **(2) TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor may transfer
12 positions and funds appropriated for positions from agencies, departments, or units of the
13 Executive Branch of State government to the Maryland Office of the Inspector General
14 established under Section 1 of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all employees who are
16 transferred to the Maryland Office of the Inspector General as a result of this Act shall be
17 transferred without diminution of their rights, benefits, employment, or retirement status.

18 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2026.