

HOUSE BILL 1085

P1

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By: **Delegate Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment**
3 **(Maryland Government Efficiency and Accountability Act of 2026)**

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

18 BY adding to

19 Article – State Government
20 Section 7.5–101 through 7.5–112 to be under the new title “Title 7.5. Inspector
21 General”
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
26 Section 5–305, 5–306, and 5–313
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – State Government**

4 **TITLE 7.5. INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

5 **7.5–101.**

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

8 (B) “EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW” MEANS A HOLISTIC REVIEW
9 OF A UNIT’S ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS TO IDENTIFY INEFFICIENCIES AND
10 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

11 (C) “INSPECTOR GENERAL” MEANS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE
12 STATE.

13 (D) “KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS” MEANS QUANTIFIABLE METRICS
14 DESIGNED TO MEASURE HOW EFFECTIVELY A UNIT IS ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES
15 RELATED TO EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY.

16 (E) “OFFICE” MEANS THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
17 GENERAL.

18 (F) “TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION” MEANS THE STATE TRANSPARENCY
19 COMMISSION.

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

22 **7.5–102.**

23 (A) THERE IS A STATE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION.

24 (B) THE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING
25 MEMBERS:

26 (1) THE GOVERNOR;

27 (2) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

28 (3) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

1 (C) ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION ARE REQUIRED
2 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS BY THE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION.

3 (D) (1) THE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT THE
4 INSPECTOR GENERAL WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION ON THE
5 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN TWO MEMBERS.

6 (2) THE TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION MAY REMOVE THE INSPECTOR
7 GENERAL ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN TWO MEMBERS FOR:

8 (I) MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;

9 (II) PERSISTENT FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE
10 OFFICE; OR

11 (III) CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION
12 OF JUSTICE.

13 (E) (1) (I) IN THE EVENT THAT THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR
14 GENERAL REMAINS VACANT FOR A PERIOD IN EXCESS OF 180 DAYS, THE
15 TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
16 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 181ST DAY AND
17 EVERY 60TH DAY THEREAFTER UNTIL THE VACANCY IS FILLED.

18 (II) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING TIME UNDER THIS
19 SUBSECTION, THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE DEEMED VACANT
20 FOLLOWING:

21 1. THE RESIGNATION OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;

22 2. THE REMOVAL OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL UNDER
23 SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION; OR

24 3. THE END OF THE TERM FOR THE INSPECTOR
25 GENERAL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONTINUES TO
26 SERVE UNDER § 7.5-103(B)(3) OF THIS TITLE.

27 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF:

28 (I) THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO APPOINT A NEW INSPECTOR
29 GENERAL; AND

1 (II) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE DURING THE VACANCY.

2 7.5-103.

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

4 (B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE
5 TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION.

6 (2) THE TERM OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS 6 YEARS, BEGINNING
7 JULY 1 AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

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

10 (C) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY
11 QUALIFIED THROUGH EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE
12 FOLLOWING AREAS:

13 (I) AUDITING;

14 (II) FINANCIAL ANALYSIS;

15 (III) BUSINESS MANAGEMENT;

16 (IV) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION;

17 (V) CRIMINAL JUSTICE; OR

18 (VI) LAW.

19 (2) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE
20 ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL AS A CERTIFIED INSPECTOR GENERAL OR
21 SHALL OBTAIN CERTIFICATION WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER APPOINTMENT.

22 (D) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS ENTITLED TO:

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

24 (2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES THAT ARE
25 CONNECTED WITH THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

26 7.5-104.

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

2 (B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SUPERVISE AND DIRECT THE OFFICE.

3 (C) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ESTABLISH OFFICE SPACE THAT
4 THE STATE SHALL MAINTAIN AND EQUIP.

5 (2) FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
6 BUDGET.

7 7.5-105.

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

10 (2) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THIS SECTION:

11 (I) SHALL:

12 1. PERFORM THE DUTIES THAT THE INSPECTOR
13 GENERAL ASSIGNS; AND

14 2. CARRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE
15 STAFF AS EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE;

16 (II) SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;
17 AND

18 (III) ARE ENTITLED TO:

19 1. COMPENSATION AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET;
20 AND

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

23 (B) FROM AMONG THE EMPLOYEES ON THE STAFF, THE INSPECTOR
24 GENERAL MAY DESIGNATE ONE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL AND ONE OR
25 MORE DEPUTY INSPECTORS GENERAL.

26 7.5-106.

1 **(A) THE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SERVE AS ACTING**
2 **INSPECTOR GENERAL IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS TEMPORARILY UNABLE OR**
3 **UNAVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.**

4 **(B) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL GIVES THE CHIEF DEPUTY INSPECTOR**
5 **GENERAL WRITTEN NOTICE OF A TEMPORARY INABILITY OR UNAVAILABILITY:**

6 **(1) THE ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SERVE ON AND AFTER**
7 **THE DATE THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SETS IN THE NOTICE AND UNTIL THE**
8 **INSPECTOR GENERAL GIVES THE ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL WRITTEN NOTICE**
9 **THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE**
10 **OFFICE; AND**

11 **(2) THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY NOT BE DEEMED**
12 **VACANT.**

13 **7.5–107.**

14 **(A) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL:**

15 **(I) RECEIVE COMPLAINTS OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,**
16 **MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION IN THE UNITS; AND**

17 **(II) ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE HOTLINE NUMBER AND WEBSITE**
18 **THROUGH WHICH ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS MAY BE FILED.**

19 **(2) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT UNDER**
20 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL**
21 **DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMPLAINT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.**

22 **(B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL IMPLEMENT TECHNOLOGY**
23 **POWERED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO AUTOMATICALLY FLAG POTENTIAL**
24 **INSTANCES OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR**
25 **CORRUPTION WITHIN THE UNITS IN REAL TIME, INCLUDING UNUSUAL**
26 **TRANSACTIONS, DUPLICATE BILLING ERRORS, AND PROCUREMENT ANOMALIES.**

27 **(2) IF THE TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
28 **THIS SUBSECTION FLAGS A POTENTIAL INSTANCE OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,**
29 **MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL**
30 **DETERMINE WHETHER THE INSTANCE SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.**

31 **(C) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL ESTABLISH:**

1 **(I) KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR EACH UNIT; AND**

2 **(II) ANNUAL GOALS FOR EACH UNIT TO MEET BASED ON THE**
3 **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.**

4 **(2) IF A UNIT FAILS TO MEET THE GOALS ESTABLISHED UNDER**
5 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS, THE INSPECTOR**
6 **GENERAL SHALL:**

7 **(I) CONDUCT AN EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW OF**
8 **THE UNIT; AND**

9 **(II) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRANSPARENCY**
10 **COMMISSION REGARDING MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE**
11 **EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW'S FINDINGS.**

12 **(D) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL DISCOVERS EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL**
13 **ACTIVITY IN THE COURSE OF CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION, THE**
14 **INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT**
15 **AGENCY.**

16 **7.5-108.**

17 **(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:**

18 **(1) MAY INVESTIGATE:**

19 **(I) COMPLAINTS OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT,**
20 **ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION IN THE UNITS; AND**

21 **(II) POTENTIAL INSTANCES OF WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,**
22 **MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION FLAGGED BY TECHNOLOGY**
23 **IMPLEMENTED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;**

24 **(2) MAY CONDUCT AUDITS AND EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION**
25 **REVIEWS OF THE UNITS;**

26 **(3) MAY PROCURE AND IMPLEMENT TECHNOLOGY POWERED BY**
27 **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO FLAG POTENTIAL INSTANCES OF WASTE,**
28 **MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION WITHIN THE**
29 **UNITS IN REAL TIME;**

1 **(4) SHALL COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UNITS OR**
2 **OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCIES AND, IF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF**
3 **WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION**
4 **ESTABLISHES A SUFFICIENT BASIS TO WARRANT REFERRAL, SHALL REFER THE**
5 **MATTER TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE OR FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS; AND**

6 **(5) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES UNDER ITEMS (1) THROUGH (4) OF**
7 **THIS SUBSECTION, SHALL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT A PERSON OR UNIT**
8 **SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE IS NOT SUBJECT TO DUPLICATIVE**
9 **INVESTIGATIONS OR AUDITS.**

10 **(B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF**
11 **THE SOURCE OF A COMPLAINT OR INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER § 7.5–107 OF**
12 **THIS TITLE UNLESS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:**

13 **(I) OBTAINS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE SOURCE; OR**

14 **(II) DETERMINES THAT DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE**
15 **SOURCE IS NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE DURING THE COURSE OF THE**
16 **INVESTIGATION.**

17 **(2) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL DETERMINES THAT DISCLOSURE OF**
18 **THE IDENTITY OF A SOURCE IS NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE, THE INSPECTOR**
19 **GENERAL SHALL NOTIFY THE SOURCE IN WRITING AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE**
20 **DISCLOSURE.**

21 **(C) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL PERIODICALLY SHALL:**

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

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

25 **(D) A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO MAKES A COMPLAINT OR PROVIDES**
26 **INFORMATION UNDER § 7.5–107 OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE**
27 **PROTECTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE STATE**
28 **PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.**

29 **7.5–109.**

30 **(A) A UNIT SHALL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN**
31 **AN INVESTIGATION, AUDIT, OR EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW THAT IS**
32 **CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE.**

1 **(B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL RECORDS,**
2 **DATA, REPORTS, CONTRACTS, CORRESPONDENCE, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS OF A**
3 **UNIT DURING AN INVESTIGATION, AUDIT, OR EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION**
4 **REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE.**

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

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

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

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

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

15 **(2) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN**
16 **APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL SOUGHT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
17 **SUBSECTION.**

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

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

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

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

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

30 **7.5-110.**

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

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

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

6 **(2) MAKE THE OPERATIONS MANUAL AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON**
7 **THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE; AND**

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

9 **7.5-111.**

10 **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, RECORDS**
11 **PREPARED OR OBTAINED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH AN**
12 **INVESTIGATION, AUDIT, OR EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW CONDUCTED BY**
13 **THE OFFICE ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE**
14 **PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT UNTIL THE FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OR**
15 **AUDIT IS ISSUED UNDER § 7.5-112(B) OF THIS TITLE.**

16 **(B) IF AN INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS A PUBLIC RECORD UNDER THE PUBLIC**
17 **INFORMATION ACT AND THE ONLY COPY OF THE PUBLIC RECORD HAS BEEN**
18 **OBTAINED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE CUSTODIAN OF THE PUBLIC RECORD**
19 **SHALL CERTIFY THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ONLY**
20 **COPY OF THE RECORD AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL ALLOW THE**
21 **INDIVIDUAL TO EXAMINE AND COPY THE RECORD.**

22 **(C) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DISCLOSES A RECORD PROTECTED FROM**
23 **DISCLOSURE UNDER THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND IS SUBJECT**
24 **TO A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT TO EXCEED 1 YEAR OR**
25 **BOTH.**

26 **7.5-112.**

27 **(A) (1) AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**
28 **SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
29 **§ 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

30 **(2) THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL:**

1 **(I) DESCRIBE THE BUSINESS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE**
2 **OFFICE DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR; AND**

3 **(II) INCLUDE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE**
4 **ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITS THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONSIDERS**
5 **APPROPRIATE.**

6 **(B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT ON AN**
7 **INVESTIGATION, AUDIT, OR EFFICIENCY RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW COMPLETED BY**
8 **THE OFFICE.**

9 **(2) THE FINAL REPORT ISSUED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
10 **SUBSECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
11 **§ 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

12 **(3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
13 **PARAGRAPH, BEFORE RELEASING A FINAL REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
14 **SUBSECTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR**
15 **THE UNIT THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE INVESTIGATION, AUDIT, OR EFFICIENCY**
16 **RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW TO RESPOND TO THE REPORT.**

17 **(II) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE**
18 **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**
19 **IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,**
20 **AN ATTORNEY GENERAL, A STATE'S ATTORNEY, OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE**
21 **PROSECUTORIAL AGENCY, DETERMINES THAT ALLOWING THE UNIT TO RESPOND**
22 **WOULD JEOPARDIZE A PENDING OR POTENTIAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.**

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

25 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

26 5-305.

27 Subject to the limitations of § 5-306 of this subtitle, a supervisor, appointing
28 authority, or the head of a principal unit may not take or refuse to take any personnel
29 action as a reprisal against:

30 (1) an employee who discloses information that the employee reasonably
31 believes evidences:

32 (i) an abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or gross waste of
33 money;

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

2 (iii) a violation of law;

3 (2) an employee of the Department of Juvenile Services who discloses
4 information to the Director of Juvenile Justice Monitoring or staff of the Office of the
5 Correctional Ombudsman, including the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit relating to the
6 Unit's duties under § 9-4014 of the State Government Article;

7 (3) an employee of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional
8 Services who discloses information to the Correctional Ombudsman or staff of the Office of
9 the Correctional Ombudsman relating to the Office's duties under § 9-4004 of the State
10 Government Article; [or]

11 (4) **AN EMPLOYEE WHO MAKES A COMPLAINT OR PROVIDES**
12 **INFORMATION TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OR STAFF OF THE**
13 **OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RELATING TO WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT,**
14 **MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION;**

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

18 5-306.

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

22 5-313.

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

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

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

27 (3) take appropriate legal action; and

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

1 **(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE**
2 **STATE SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 7.5 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
3 **ARTICLE:**

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

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

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

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

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