

HOUSE BILL 1449

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By: **Delegates Nawrocki, Arikan, Chisholm, Fisher, Grammer, M. Morgan, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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

17 BY adding to

18 Article – State Government

19 Section 7.5–101 through 7.5–112 to be under the new title “Title 7.5. Inspector
20 General”

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

25 Section 5–305, 5–306, and 5–313

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (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) “ADVISORY BOARD” MEANS THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE
9 INSPECTOR GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD.

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

12 (D) “OFFICE” MEANS THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
13 GENERAL.

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

16 **7.5–102.**

17 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
18 ADVISORY BOARD.

19 (B) THE ADVISORY BOARD IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

20 (1) THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR’S DESIGNEE;

21 (2) THE COMPTROLLER, OR THE COMPTROLLER’S DESIGNEE;

22 (3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, OR THE PRESIDENT’S
23 DESIGNEE;

24 (4) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, OR THE SPEAKER’S DESIGNEE; AND

25 (5) THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED
26 THROUGH EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION IN AUDITING, FINANCIAL ANALYSIS,
27 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, OR LAW:

1 **(I) ONE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

2 **(II) ONE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND**

3 **(III) ONE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.**

4 **(C) (1) THE GOVERNOR, THE COMPTROLLER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE**
5 **SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE**
6 **TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS BY THE ADVISORY BOARD.**

7 **(2) A DESIGNEE OF A MEMBER IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
8 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE INCLUDED FOR THE DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.**

9 **(D) (1) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL:**

10 **(I) APPOINT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WITHOUT REGARD TO**
11 **POLITICAL AFFILIATION ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT FEWER THAN FOUR**
12 **MEMBERS; AND**

13 **(II) CONDUCT AT LEAST ONE ANNUAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE**
14 **PERFORMANCE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

15 **(2) THE ADVISORY BOARD MAY REMOVE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**
16 **ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF NOT FEWER THAN FOUR MEMBERS FOR:**

17 **(I) MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;**

18 **(II) PERSISTENT FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE**
19 **OFFICE; OR**

20 **(III) CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION**
21 **OF JUSTICE.**

22 **(E) (1) (I) IN THE EVENT THAT THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR**
23 **GENERAL REMAINS VACANT FOR A PERIOD IN EXCESS OF 180 DAYS, THE ADVISORY**
24 **BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
25 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 181ST DAY AND**
26 **EVERY 60TH DAY THEREAFTER UNTIL THE VACANCY IS FILLED.**

27 **(II) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING TIME UNDER THIS**
28 **SUBSECTION, THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE DEEMED VACANT**
29 **FOLLOWING:**

- 1 1. **THE RESIGNATION OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;**
- 2 2. **THE REMOVAL OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL UNDER**
3 **SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION; OR**
- 4 3. **THE END OF THE TERM FOR THE INSPECTOR**
5 **GENERAL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONTINUES TO**
6 **SERVE UNDER § 7.5–103(B)(3) OF THIS TITLE.**

7 **(2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF:**

- 8 **(I) THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO APPOINT A NEW INSPECTOR**
9 **GENERAL; AND**
- 10 **(II) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE DURING THE VACANCY.**

11 **7.5–103.**

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

13 **(B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE**
14 **ADVISORY BOARD.**

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

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

19 **(C) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY**
20 **QUALIFIED THROUGH EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE**
21 **FOLLOWING AREAS:**

- 22 **(I) AUDITING;**
- 23 **(II) FINANCIAL ANALYSIS;**
- 24 **(III) BUSINESS MANAGEMENT;**
- 25 **(IV) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION;**
- 26 **(V) CRIMINAL JUSTICE; OR**

1 (VI) LAW.

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

5 (D) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IS ENTITLED TO:

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

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

9 7.5-104.

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

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

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

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

16 7.5-105.

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

19 (2) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THIS SECTION:

20 (I) SHALL:

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

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

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

1 **(III) ARE ENTITLED TO:**

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

3 **AND**

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

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

9 **7.5-106.**

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

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

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

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

22 **7.5-107.**

23 **(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL:**

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

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

28 **(B) IF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES A COMPLAINT UNDER**
29 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL DETERMINE**
30 **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 **7.5-108.**

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) SHALL COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UNITS OR
10 OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCIES AND, IF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF
11 WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT, MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, FRAUD, OR CORRUPTION
12 ESTABLISHES A SUFFICIENT BASIS TO WARRANT REFERRAL, SHALL REFER THE
13 MATTER TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE OR FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS; AND

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

18 (B) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF
19 THE SOURCE OF A COMPLAINT OR INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER § 7.5-107 OF
20 THIS TITLE UNLESS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

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

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

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

29 (C) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL PERIODICALLY SHALL:

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

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

3 **7.5–109.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 **7.5–110.**

5 (A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT
6 THIS TITLE.

7 (B) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL:

8 (1) DEVELOP AN OPERATIONS MANUAL THAT CONFORMS TO THE
9 STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL;

10 (2) MAKE THE OPERATIONS MANUAL AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON
11 THE OFFICE’S WEBSITE; AND

12 (3) PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR THE UNITS.

13 **7.5–111.**

14 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, RECORDS
15 PREPARED OR OBTAINED BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN CONNECTION WITH AN
16 INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND
17 NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT UNTIL THE
18 FINAL REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OR AUDIT IS ISSUED UNDER § 7.5–112(B) OF
19 THIS TITLE.

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

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

30 **7.5–112.**

1 (A) (1) AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
2 SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
3 § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 (2) THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL:

5 (I) DESCRIBE THE BUSINESS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
6 OFFICE DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR; AND

7 (II) INCLUDE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
8 ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITS THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONSIDERS
9 APPROPRIATE.

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

12 (2) THE FINAL REPORT ISSUED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
13 SUBSECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
14 § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

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

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

28 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

29 5-305.

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

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

3 (i) an abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or gross waste of
4 money;

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

6 (iii) a violation of law;

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

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

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

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

22 5-306.

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

26 5-313.

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

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

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

31 (3) take appropriate legal action; and

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

4 **(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE**
5 **STATE SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 7.5 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
6 **ARTICLE:**

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

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

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

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

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