

SENATE BILL 991

P3

6lr3712
CF HB 1620

By: **Senators Jennings, Jackson, Folden, Bailey, Hershey, Gallion, Corderman,
Ready, Carozza, Salling, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Information Act – Inspectors General – Access of Public Records**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a custodian to allow a certain inspector general to inspect a
4 public record under certain circumstances; providing that redisclosure of certain
5 information is subject to certain restrictions; and generally relating to access to
6 public records by inspectors general.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 4–301

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – General Provisions**

15 4–301.

16 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, a custodian shall deny inspection of a
17 public record or any part of a public record if:

18 (1) by law, the public record is privileged or confidential; or

19 (2) the inspection would be contrary to:

20 (i) a State statute;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) a federal statute or a regulation that is issued under the statute
2 and has the force of law;

3 (iii) the rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Maryland; or

4 (iv) an order of a court of record.

5 (b) If an applicant files a complaint with the Ombudsman challenging a denial or
6 the application of an exemption under this subtitle, the custodian shall demonstrate that:

7 (1) the denial or the exemption is clearly applicable to the requested public
8 record; and

9 (2) if inspection is denied under Part IV of this subtitle, the harm from
10 disclosure of the public record is greater than the public interest in access to the information
11 in the public record.

12 (c) (1) **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE, A**
13 **CUSTODIAN SHALL ALLOW AN INSPECTOR GENERAL WHOSE OFFICE IS CREATED BY**
14 **STATE LAW OR LOCAL LAW TO INSPECT A PUBLIC RECORD OR ANY PART OF A PUBLIC**
15 **RECORD IF:**

16 (i) **A STATE OR LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZES THE INSPECTOR**
17 **GENERAL TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND INSPECT THE PUBLIC RECORD; AND**

18 (ii) **THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REQUIRES ACCESS TO THE**
19 **PUBLIC RECORD TO PERFORM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S DUTIES.**

20 (2) **ANY REDISCLOSURE BY AN INSPECTOR GENERAL OF A PUBLIC**
21 **RECORD RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**
22 **TITLE.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2026.