



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 795**

**DATE: March 6, 2020**

**SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation**

**ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means**

**CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher (kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### Montgomery County – Authority of County Council Over Inspector General – Montgomery County Public Schools MC 14-20

House Bill 795 is an enabling bill that authorizes the County to enact a local law that gives the County's Inspector General authority over Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). If this bill is enacted, no changes will be needed to County law to implement the bill. County law already includes language that extends the Inspector General's authority to all "Independent Agencies" created by State law, including MCPS. However, this component of County law is currently unenforceable against MCPS because the State has not yet granted authority to the County to include MCPS under the Inspector General's jurisdiction. In essence, this bill makes existing County law enforceable against MCPS. This bill mirrors two bills that were enacted in 2019 that authorized the County to enact local laws giving the Inspector General authority over Montgomery College (HB 304) and the Housing Opportunities Commission (HB 344). As with this bill, no changes to County law were needed to implement HB 304 or HB 344.

County law provides that the goals of the Inspector General are to: (1) review the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and operations of County government and independent County agencies; (2) prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in government activities; and (3) propose ways to increase the legal, fiscal, and ethical accountability of County government departments and County-funded agencies. The Inspector General must attempt to identify actions which would enhance the productivity, effectiveness, or efficiency of programs and operations of County government and independent County agencies. In developing recommendations, the Inspector General may: (1) conduct investigations, budgetary analyses, and financial, management, or performance audits and similar reviews; and (2) seek assistance from any other government agency or private party or undertake any project jointly with any other governmental agency or private body.

Montgomery County respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee give this bill a favorable report.