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SB 380 - Maryland Office of the Inspector General for General Services (DGS)

Background

- DGS supports State and local government agencies by providing a full spectrum of design and construction, facilities operations, security, procurement, real estate, and surplus property services
- Responsible for over \$1 billion in contract administration, 6.3 million square feet of state-owned facilities, and 4.6 million square feet of leased space

Issues Addressed

- Currently, DGS has no independent office responsible for oversight of the Department
 - As the State's primary procurement agency, establishing independent oversight commensurate with other state agencies is warranted
- This legislation was developed with insights provided by the Office of Legislative Audits and the Department of Legislative Services
 - OLA is not capable of providing the everyday oversight of DGS that an independent Inspector General would be tasked

Solutions Proposed by SB 380

- Establishes the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the DGS as an independent unit of government
 - Modeled after the Department of Education OIG with a unanimous appointment by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer with advice and consent of the Senate
- The OIG will coordinate investigative efforts within DGS and collaborate with investigations led by other units of state government
 - Will investigate fraud and abuse, coordinate referrals to law enforcement, and seek recoupment of funds improperly dispensed by the Department
 - The bill includes provisions requiring annual reports made to the Department Secretary, the Governor, and the General Assembly
- DGS Inspector General will execute an affidavit affirming their refusal to accept or campaign for elected office while serving in this role and for 3 years following their exit from the Department
 - Shall serve a 5-year term
- Inspector General's provide valuable oversight for a citizen legislature and enhance public confidence in government