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BILL NO.: **SB 380**

TITLE: Maryland Office of the Inspector General for General Services

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 17, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 380 – Maryland Office of the Inspector General for General Services. This legislation would establish the Maryland Office of Inspector General for General Services.

Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has consistently prioritized improving government accountability throughout Baltimore County. The County took an important step forward in 2019 through the establishment of the independent Office of Inspector General. That office has uncovered many instances of fraud and abuse that have gone unnoticed for years. This work has helped reestablish the community's faith in ethical, transparent local government.

Senate Bill 380 would create a similarly modeled Maryland Office of the Inspector General for the general services of state government. Recent events have proven that the state is not immune to fraud, waste, and abuse. By working as an independent entity within the Department of General Services, the Inspector General would be able to serve in a regulatory capacity without risk of retaliation from the entity they are overseeing. In this role, the Inspector General would gain access to sworn testimony and have the power to issue subpoenas, which would both strengthen their investigatory power and make available the necessary resources. This office would help establish more efficient and ethical government in service to all Maryland residents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 380. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.