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Health and Government Operations  
Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**March 10, 2026**

**HB 1064 Maryland Office of the Inspector General - Establishment  
Testimony of Delegate Heather Bagnall (Favorable)**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and honorable Government, Labor, and Elections Committee members, I'm pleased to present House Bill 1064 to you all.

House Bill 1064 aims to establish a centralized, state-level Maryland Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to oversee the functions of the former Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education and the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Health. The goal is to streamline oversight efforts and improve accountability, transparency, and whistleblower protections within the state government.

The new OIG would unify these existing inspector general entities into a single statewide office, empowering the Inspector General to review activities within state agencies in a procedurally consistent manner. It would be authorized to conduct investigations and audits, subpoena documents with judicial approval, and refer potential criminal activity to law enforcement agencies—all under a single umbrella.

House Bill 1064 also expands protections for state employees who report misconduct. By extending whistleblower protections to employees who provide information to the OIG, this bill helps ensure they can raise concerns without fear of retaliation. Additionally, the new OIG would be required to issue an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly, allowing policymakers to monitor its progress and outcomes.

The benefits of having a centralized state-level OIG are well-documented across other states. With the introduction of a state-level OIG in 2005, Indiana saw its total savings and captures from 2005 to 2010 reach over \$14,000,000, while its operating expenses

reached only around \$7,000,000<sup>1</sup>. Following its introduction in 2005, the OIG reported a 925% increase in reports of wrongdoing compared to its previous model<sup>2</sup>

At its core, House Bill 1064 aims to strengthen public trust in our government agencies by ensuring that concerns about waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption can be investigated in an independent, transparent, and efficient manner. With this, I thank you for the opportunity to present HB 1376 and respectfully request the committee's favorable report.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Indiana Inspector General, "2010 Annual Report"  
<https://www.in.gov/ig/files/OIG2010AR.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Office of the Indiana Inspector General, "2005 Annual Report"  
[https://www.in.gov/ig/files/OIG\\_2005\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.in.gov/ig/files/OIG_2005_Annual_Report.pdf)