

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Government, Labor, and Elections
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1064
Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment
DATE: February 18, 2026
(3/10)
POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1064, as drafted.

While the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of the bill, the Judiciary notes that the bill requires a circuit court to issue a written decision on an application within 72 hours after the receipt of the application (p. 9, lines 23-25). It is unclear how the court would be able to comply with issuing a written decision within 72 hours in these cases. In addition, the court typically does not issue a written decision for a request for a subpoena but rather approves or denies the application. The bill does not specify what a written decision entails or why a written decision on an application is necessary.

Further, the bill permits the Inspector General to issue a subpoena upon approval by a circuit court (p. 9, lines 17-19), but the bill does not specify the standard by which the court is to review a subpoena request. Lastly, the bill grants the Inspector General access to all records of a unit during an investigation, audit, or efficiency reconstruction review (p. 9, lines 7-9). It is unclear whether principles of privilege would permit a unit to withhold records in such instances.

cc. Hon. Heather Bagnall
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor