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Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Energy

Motor Vehicle and Transportation

Non-Energy Utilities

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 10, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Distinguished Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Ryan Nawrocki, and I respectfully request a favorable report on **House Bill 1449**.

HB 1449 establishes a **statewide Office of the Inspector General** to provide independent, professional, and nonpartisan oversight of Maryland state government. This legislation is grounded in a simple principle: **Marylanders deserve confidence that their government operates with integrity, transparency, and accountability.**

Today, Maryland has internal audit and investigative functions within certain agencies. Still, we lack a **centralized, independent office** with the authority and responsibility to identify systemic risks, investigate allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct, and recommend reforms across state government. **HB 1449 fills that gap.**

This bill creates an Inspector General appointed through a transparent process, with statutory independence, fixed terms, and protections against political interference. The office would have the authority to conduct audits, evaluations, and investigations; issue public reports; refer matters for administrative or criminal action when appropriate; and recommend reforms to prevent future problems. Importantly, the legislation includes clear jurisdictional boundaries and due-process protections to ensure fairness and avoid duplicating existing oversight.

A statewide Inspector General strengthens, not weakens, our agencies. By identifying vulnerabilities before they become crises, improving internal controls, and promoting best practices, the office will help the government operate more efficiently and effectively. At both the federal level and in many other states, inspectors general have consistently returned savings to taxpayers that **far exceed the cost of their operations**. Maryland taxpayers deserve that same level of stewardship.

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HB 1449 also provides important protections for **whistleblowers**, allowing individuals to report concerns without fear of retaliation. Protecting those who come forward in good faith is essential to maintaining ethical and accountable government.

Ultimately, this bill is about **public trust**. Establishing an independent Office of the Inspector General sends a clear message to Marylanders: we welcome scrutiny, we value accountability, and we are committed to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask for a **favorable report on House Bill 1449**. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Nawrocki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Delegate Ryan Nawrocki