

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Deputy Attorney General



PETER V. BERNS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

March 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1064 - Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment
(Support in Concept)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports House Bill 1064 - Maryland Office of the Inspector General - Establishment in concept. HB 1064 establishes a centralized Office of the Inspector General with statewide jurisdiction over waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, and mismanagement in the executive branch, consolidating the existing Office of the Inspector General for Education and the Office of the Inspector General for Health under a single Inspector General jointly appointed by the Governor, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer.

The OAG supports the goal of strengthening executive branch oversight and accountability. Centralized inspector general capacity has the potential to address gaps in the current fragmented oversight structure and to improve coordination with law enforcement when investigations identify potential criminal activity.

We offer this support in concept because we believe several provisions warrant further attention before the bill is enacted. In particular, we have concerns about the effect of relocating the Office of the Inspector General for Education from its current statutory home in the Education Article to a general State Government title. That move may weaken the legal footing the OIGE has relied on to access school records under FERPA — an issue the OIGE has sought to address legislatively for several years. We also note that the subpoena mechanism created by the bill, which requires prior judicial approval and imposes a 72-hour mandatory review window on the circuit court, presents both operational and constitutional questions that merit careful review.

Finally, we would encourage the Committee to consider whether the bill's fiscal structure adequately supports the scope of the mandate being established.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1064 favorable consideration.

Cc: Members of the Committee