

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
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
P: (410)260-1523

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 1085
Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment
(Maryland Government Efficiency and Accountability Act of
2026)
DATE: February 18, 2026
(3/10)
POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1085, 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 18–20). 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 12–14), 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 1–4). It is unclear whether principles of privilege would permit a unit to withhold records in such instances.

cc. Hon. April Miller
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor