

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 1449
Maryland Office of the Inspector General – Establishment
DATE: February 18, 2026
(3/10)
POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1449, 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. 8, lines 22-24). 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. 8, lines 16-18), 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. 8, lines 6-8). It is unclear whether principles of privilege would permit a unit to withhold records in such instances.

cc. Hon. Ryan Nawrocki
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor