



**HB1064 Maryland Office of Inspector General  
Position: FAV**

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair  
Government, Labor, Elections Committee  
Room 145, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Health Committee

Chair Wells and Members of the Committee,

Economic Action writes in strong support of HB1064 which establishes an Office of Inspector General for Maryland. HB1064 sets out the terms, qualifications, and scope for the Office of Inspector General.

The role of the Inspector General is to root out fraud, abuse, and malfeasance, increase transparency, and safeguard public funds. Although Maryland has Offices of Inspector General in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard, and Montgomery County, there is not a statewide Inspector General in Maryland. Currently several agencies have inspectors general within their agencies. Under HB1064, those agency inspectors would remain and serve under the statewide Inspector General.

There are a number of benefits to Maryland establishing a statewide office as our counterparts in New York, Illinois, Delaware, Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania have done. Recent legislative audits in Maryland have uncovered \$992 million in questionable taxpayer-funded transactions.

A Maryland Inspector General that is independent, has subpoena power, investigative authority, and an clear funding mechanism can save Maryland money by investigating and eliminating fraud and abuse. An Inspector General may also increase transparency across state agencies, deep public trust in government, and hold individuals accountable when they break the law and take public money or time.

Legislative audits and performance management is well-established in Maryland. While commendable, those roles are separate and distinct from an Inspector General. In surrounding states, the benefits are clear. For example, in Virginia, the Inspector General closed a projected \$51 million gap in overtime usage.

For all these reasons, we support HB1064 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director