

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2023, Legislative Day No. 20

Bill No. 84-23

Mr. Julian E. Jones Jr., Chairman
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, November 6, 2023

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Office of the Inspector General

FOR the purpose of clarifying the purpose of the Office of the Inspector General; setting the terms of the Inspector General; providing that staff of the Office of Inspector General are County employees and subject to County personnel laws; ensuring the Office of the Inspector General is adequately funded; providing access to independent legal counsel; requiring the Office of the Inspector General to ensure its policies and procedures are published on the County website; requiring the Inspector General to provide an annual training to elected and public officials; requiring recipients of a subpoena to comply within 30 days; and generally relating the Office of the Inspector General.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Sections 3-14-102(1), 3-14-103(b)(1), 3-14-104, 3-14-105(a), 3-14-106,
and 3-14-107(a)(4), (c)

Article 3 – Administration

Title 14 – Office of the Inspector General

Baltimore County Code, 2015

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

3
4 ARTICLE 3 – ADMINISTRATION

5 Title 14 – Office of the Inspector General

6
7 § 3-14-102.

8 The purpose of the Office of the Inspector General is to provide increased accountability
9 and oversight in the operations of the county government by identifying:

10 (1) Fraud, [abuse, and illegal acts,] WASTE, AND ABUSE in the county
11 government; and

12 (2) Ways to promote efficiency, accountability, and integrity in county
13 government.

14
15 § 3-14-103.

16 (b) (1) [(i) The initial term of office of the Inspector General shall be five years.

17 (ii) Each subsequent term shall be four years.]

18 THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR A TERM OF
19 FOUR YEARS COMMENCING AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPOINTMENT AND

1 CONTINUING UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSOR QUALIFIES.

2
3 § 3-14-104.

4 The Inspector General shall supervise the operations of the [administrative] staff of the
5 Office of the Inspector General, including the hiring, direction, and discharge of all Office of the
6 Inspector General staff members in accordance with the County personnel laws.

7 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER
8 OR THE CODE, THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL
9 BE CONSIDERED COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND ARE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE
10 COUNTY PERSONNEL LAWS.

11 (2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE STATED IN § 3-14-103(D), THE INSPECTOR
12 GENERAL SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY PERSONNEL LAWS.

13
14 § 3-14-105.

15 (a) (1) (I) The Office of the Inspector General shall be funded as a separate
16 budget entity in the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.

17 (II) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL
18 ENSURE THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL IS
19 SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OUTLINED IN THIS TITLE.

20 (III) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 508 AND 510 OF THE
21 CHARTER, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY REQUEST INDEPENDENT LEGAL
22 COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WHEN NECESSARY TO
23 AVOID CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT.

1 (2) Any decrease in appropriations from the prior fiscal year, in either the
2 proposed or adopted budget, shall be accompanied by a written justification for the [decrease]
3 DECREASE, WHICH SHALL BE PUBLICLY POSTED IN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE
4 PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE BUDGET TO PERMIT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC
5 COMMENT.

6
7 § 3-14-106.

8 The Office of the Inspector General may:

9 (5) Receive and investigate complaints from any source or upon its own initiative
10 concerning alleged [abuse] fraud, WASTE, and ABUSE, [service deficiencies] including
11 deficiencies in the operation and maintenance of facilities;

12 (8) Establish policies and procedures to guide functions and processes conducted
13 by the Office, SHALL PUBLISH THEM ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE, COPIES SHALL BE
14 MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN
15 THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL;

16 (9) Make recommendations to the County Executive and County Council which
17 would assist in the promotion of efficiency, accountability, and integrity in county government;

18 [and]

19 (10) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE FUNCTIONS
20 OF THE OFFICE AND REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE FOR ELECTED AND
21 PUBLIC OFFICIALS; AND

22 (11) Do all things necessary to carry out the functions set forth in this title.
23

1 § 3-14-107.

2 (a) The Office of the Inspector General is provided the following powers to accomplish
3 the intent of this title:

4 (4) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the power to require County
5 employees to cooperate with the Office's investigations regarding fraud, waste, [corruption,
6 illegal acts,] and abuse.

7 (c) (1) The Office may issue a subpoena to compel compliance with a request issued
8 under subsection (a) of this section if the recipient of the request has not complied with the
9 request within [90] 30 days after the request.

10 (2) THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY ISSUE A
11 SUBPOENA FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS THAT ARE NOT MAINTAINED BY
12 BALTIMORE COUNTY, AND THAT ARE NOT WITHIN THE POSSESSION, CUSTODY
13 OR CONTROL OF A COUNTY EMPLOYEE, AT ANY TIME DURING ITS
14 INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS.

15 (3) Subpoenas issued by the office may be judicially enforced.
16

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the first Inspector General was
18 appointed in 2020 serving an initial five-year term, as permitted in the original enabling
19 legislation (Bill No. 5-19) at that time and, unless removed for cause, shall be permitted to
20 complete that initial five-year term, with every other term of any Inspector General thereafter
21 consisting of four years.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 45 days
23 after its enactment.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION _____

DISPOSITION _____

ENACTED _____

EFFECTIVE _____

AMENDMENTS _____

ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Patoka
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Kach
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Jones
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Marks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Ertel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
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