

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 12

Bill No. 50-25

Mr. Izzy Patoka, Councilman

By the County Council, July 7, 2025

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Charter – Inspector General Appointment Board

FOR the purpose of amending the County Charter to establish an Inspector General Appointment Board; providing for the appointment of members to the Appointment Board; and generally relating to the Office of the Inspector General and the Inspector General Appointment Board.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 1014
Article X – Miscellaneous
Baltimore County Charter

BY adding

Section 1014.1
Article X – Miscellaneous
Baltimore County Charter

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.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that under the authority granted to it by Section 1202 of the Baltimore
3 County Charter, Section 1014 of Article X – Miscellaneous of the Baltimore County Charter is
4 proposed to be repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and Section 1014.1 of Article X –
5 Miscellaneous of the Baltimore County Charter is proposed to be added, to read as follows:

6
7 Article X – Miscellaneous
8

9 Section 1014. Office of the Inspector General.

10 (a) There is an Office of the Inspector General.

11 (b) The purpose of the Office of the Inspector General is to provide increased
12 accountability and oversight in the operations of the county government by identifying:

13 (1) Fraud, waste, and abuse in the county government; and

14 (2) Ways to promote efficiency, accountability, and integrity in county
15 government.

16 (c) [(1)] The office shall be headed by an Inspector General, appointed [by the
17 County Executive and confirmed by the county council.] OR REAPPOINTED IF APPLICABLE
18 BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL APPOINTMENT BOARD AS PROVIDED IN SECTION
19 1014.1 OF THIS CHARTER.

20 [(2) The County Executive shall conduct an open search process for the Inspector
21 General to meet the qualifications required under subsection (e) of this section, and may use
22 measures, such as regional or national recognized organizations or professional search firms, to
23 review and select an Inspector General candidate for appointment.]

1 (d) (1) The Inspector General shall hold office for a term of four years commencing
2 at the time of their appointment OR REAPPOINTMENT IF APPLICABLE and continuing until
3 their successor qualifies.

4 (2) An Inspector General may not serve more than 2 full terms, not including any
5 time served as Inspector General to complete an unexpired term, and shall be subject to
6 appointment for a second term in accordance with the provisions of subsection [(c)(1)] (C) of
7 this section.

8 (e) The Inspector General shall be professionally qualified, by experience or education,
9 in auditing, law, ethics, compliance, government operations, or financial management, and shall
10 be selected solely on the basis of professional ability and personal integrity, without regard to
11 political affiliation.

12 (f) (1) The Inspector General may be removed by the [County Executive]
13 INSPECTOR GENERAL APPOINTMENT BOARD before the expiration of the term for which
14 the Inspector General was appointed only for cause, subject to the approval of the [county
15 council by a vote of a majority plus one of the members of the county council] AFFIRMATIVE
16 VOTE OF A MAJORITY PLUS ONE OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE
17 APPOINTMENT BOARD.

18 (2) The cause of removal shall be stated in writing and a public hearing held on
19 the removal.

20 (g) (1) The Inspector General shall supervise the operations of the staff of the Office
21 of the Inspector General, including the hiring, direction, and discharge of all Office of the
22 Inspector General staff members in accordance with the county personnel laws.

23 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Charter or the Code, the staff of

1 the Office of the Inspector General shall be considered county employees and are subject to all
2 applicable county personnel laws.

3 (3) Except as otherwise stated in subsection (f) of this section, the Inspector
4 General shall be subject to all applicable county personnel laws.

5 (h) (1) (i) The Office of the Inspector General shall be funded as a separate
6 budget entity in the annual budget and appropriation ordinance.

7 (ii) The County Executive and county council shall ensure that the budget
8 for the Office of Inspector General is sufficient to provide the services outlined in the applicable
9 sections of the Baltimore County Code, as amended.

10 (2) Any decrease in appropriations from the prior fiscal year, in either the
11 proposed or adopted budget, shall be accompanied by a written justification for the decrease
12 which shall be publicly posted in time for public hearings on the budget to permit public
13 comment and input on such reductions.

14 (3) The office may expend funds derived from private grants, the State, or the
15 United States to carry out its functions and activities, and to cooperate with any agency of the
16 state or the United States in carrying out its functions and activities.

17
18 SECTION 1014.1. INSPECTOR GENERAL APPOINTMENT BOARD.

19 (A) (1) THERE IS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL APPOINTMENT BOARD,
20 WHICH SHALL CONSIST OF 7 MEMBERS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

21 (2) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD IS ENTITLED TO THE ASSISTANCE OF
22 THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PURPOSES OF ADVERTISING A
23 VACANCY AND INTERVIEWING AND HIRING CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF

1 INSPECTOR GENERAL.

2 (3) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL PROVIDE THE APPOINTMENT
3 BOARD WITH ACCESS TO COUNTY RESOURCES TO FACILITATE AND SUPPORT
4 THE COMPLETION OF THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPOINTMENT
5 BOARD.

6 (B) AN INDIVIDUAL IS QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE
7 APPOINTMENT BOARD IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

8 (1) IS A BALTIMORE COUNTY RESIDENT;

9 (2) IS OVER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS OLD; AND

10 (3) HAS A BACKGROUND IN, OR FAMILIARITY WITH, ETHICS, LAW,
11 PROGRAM OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, OR ACCOUNTING, OR HAS A
12 FAMILIARITY WITH AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AND THE DUTIES OF
13 SUCH AN OFFICE.

14 (C) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS IN SUBSECTION (B)
15 OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
16 APPOINTMENT BOARD IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

17 (1) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES AN EMPLOYEE OR ELECTED
18 OFFICER OF:

19 (I) THE STATE;

20 (II) BALTIMORE COUNTY; OR

21 (III) ANY STATE OR COUNTY AGENCY, INSTRUMENTALITY, OR
22 ANY OTHER UNIT OF A STATE ENTITY EXCEPT:

23 1. A STATE COLLEGE;

1 2. A STATE UNIVERSITY; OR

2 3. ANOTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

3 (2) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTED

4 PUBLIC OFFICE OF:

5 (I) THE STATE;

6 (II) BALTIMORE COUNTY; OR

7 (III) ANY OTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY OF THE STATE;

8 (3) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES AN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICER’S:

9 (I) SPOUSE;

10 (II) PARENT;

11 (III) CHILD; OR

12 (IV) SIBLING;

13 (4) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, AS

14 DEFINED IN SECTION 1-101(MM) OF THE STATE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE;

15 (5) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES EMPLOYED BY BALTIMORE

16 COUNTY OR THE STATE IN ANY CAPACITY;

17 (6) IS CURRENTLY OR BECOMES A LOBBYIST UNDER:

18 (I) TITLE 5 OF THE STATE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE;

19 (II) ARTICLE 7, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE COUNTY CODE; OR

20 (III) THE ETHICS CODE OF ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF

21 THE STATE;

22 (7) HAS BEEN WITHIN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, IS CURRENTLY,

23 OR BECOMES ASSOCIATED WITH A BUSINESS ENTITY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION

1 7-1-301 OF THE COUNTY CODE; OR

2 (8) HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR WITH A
3 STATUTORY PENALTY OF MORE THAN 2 YEARS OR IMPRISONED FOR SUCH A
4 CONVICTION WITHIN 10 YEARS OF THE APPOINTMENT.

5 (D) (1) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING
6 MEMBERS WHO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS
7 SECTION AND ARE SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE APPOINTMENT BOARD AS
8 FOLLOWS:

9 (I) AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;

10 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE
11 COUNTY COUNCIL;

12 (III) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS SELECTED BY THE
13 DIRECTOR OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION:

14 1. A FORMER OR RETIRED JUDGE OF A MARYLAND
15 APPELLATE COURT, CIRCUIT COURT, DISTRICT COURT, OR STATE OFFICE OF
16 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS;

17 2. A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED
18 FRAUD EXAMINERS;

19 3. A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
20 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS;

21 4. A FACULTY MEMBER AT A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
22 LOCATED IN BALTIMORE COUNTY; AND

23 5. A FACULTY MEMBER AT AN HISTORICALLY BLACK

1 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN THE BALTIMORE REGION.

2 (2) IN SELECTING THE MEMBERS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (1)(III)
3 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION SHALL
4 REQUEST THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FROM WHICH TO MAKE THE
5 SELECTIONS.

6 (3) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL BE
7 INCLUSIVE AND REFLECT THE RACIAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
8 COUNTY.

9 (4) THE DIRECTOR OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION SHALL SERVE AS A
10 NON-VOTING EX OFFICIO SECRETARY TO THE APPOINTMENT BOARD.

11 (5) THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL
12 SERVE A TERM COMMENCING AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPOINTMENT AND
13 EXPIRING ON JANUARY 31, 2031, WHEREAFTER THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER
14 SHALL BE 4 YEARS AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31.

15 (6) A MEMBER OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD MAY SERVE UP TO 2
16 FULL TERMS.

17 (E) (1) A QUORUM OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD CONSISTS OF 4
18 MEMBERS.

19 (2) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM THE
20 MEMBERSHIP OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD.

21 (3) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE CURRENT
22 MEMBERS OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL BE NECESSARY TO APPOINT OR
23 REAPPOINT, AS APPLICABLE, A PERSON TO THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR

1 GENERAL.

2 (F) (1) (I) A MEMBER OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD MAY BE
3 REMOVED FOR CAUSE, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL INTERFERENCE OR FAILURE
4 TO ATTEND MEETINGS, BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE
5 CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD.

6 (II) PRIOR TO A VOTE TO REMOVE A MEMBER OF THE
7 APPOINTMENT BOARD, THE MEMBER SUBJECT TO THE REMOVAL:

8 1. SHALL BE PRESENTED WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT
9 OF THE REASONS FOR THE REMOVAL; AND

10 2. MAY REQUEST THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE
11 THE ENTIRE APPOINTMENT BOARD TAKE PLACE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF RECEIVING
12 THE STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REMOVAL.

13 (2) A MEMBER OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD WHO IS CONVICTED
14 OF A FELONY OR A MISDEMEANOR WITH A STATUTORY PENALTY OF MORE
15 THAN 2 YEARS DURING THEIR TERM SHALL REPORT THE SAME TO THE
16 DIRECTOR OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION AND SHALL BE REMOVED.

17 (G) PRIOR TO BEGINNING THEIR DUTIES, THE MEMBERS OF THE
18 APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL ATTEND A TRAINING SESSION, TO BE PROVIDED
19 BY THE ETHICS COMMISSION, THAT DETAILS:

20 (1) THE RULES GOVERNING THE APPOINTMENT BOARD; AND
21 (2) THE RULES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE
22 OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

23 (H) (1) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL MEET AS NECESSARY TO

1 FULFILL THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND
2 THE COUNTY CODE.

3 (2) WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE EXPIRATION OF A TERM OR THE
4 OCCURRENCE OF A VACANCY IN THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE
5 APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL MEET TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OR
6 REAPPOINTMENT, IF APPLICABLE, OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

7 (3) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION BY AN
8 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE
9 APPOINTMENT BOARD TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO:

10 (I) REAPPOINT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, IF THE INCUMBENT
11 IS ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT; OR

12 (II) CONDUCT AN OPEN SEARCH FOR THE POSITION OF
13 INSPECTOR GENERAL UPON THE EXPIRATION OF A TERM OR THE OCCURRENCE
14 OF A VACANCY.

15 (4) IF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD DETERMINES THAT THE
16 INSPECTOR GENERAL IS TO BE REAPPOINTED, THE BOARD SHALL REAPPOINT
17 THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DETERMINATION.

18 (5) (I) IF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD DETERMINES THAT AN OPEN
19 SEARCH IS TO BE CONDUCTED, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE INCUMBENT, IF
20 APPLICABLE, AND THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN WRITING WITHIN 10
21 DAYS OF THE DETERMINATION.

22 (II) THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL POST A
23 POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE AND MAY UTILIZE

1 OTHER RECRUITMENT SITES OR PUBLICATIONS TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION OF
2 INSPECTOR GENERAL. THE APPOINTMENT BOARD MAY ALSO UTILIZE
3 PROFESSIONAL SEARCH FIRMS IF NECESSARY.

4 (III) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE
5 APPLICATIONS AND INTERVIEW QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF
6 INSPECTOR GENERAL.

7 (IV) THE FINAL CANDIDATE SELECTED TO FILL THE POSITION
8 OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL BE APPOINTED BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A
9 MAJORITY OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD.

10 (6) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL FULFILL THE DUTIES OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION IN A TIMELY MANNER IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS
12 AND CONTINUITY OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

13 (I) (1) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL MAY BE REMOVED BY THE
14 APPOINTMENT BOARD BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM FOR WHICH THE
15 INSPECTOR GENERAL WAS APPOINTED ONLY FOR CAUSE, SUBJECT TO THE
16 APPROVAL BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY PLUS ONE OF THE
17 CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD.

18 (2) THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL STATE THE CAUSE OF
19 REMOVAL IN WRITING AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REMOVAL.

20 (J) (1) MEETINGS OF THE APPOINTMENT BOARD SHALL BE OPEN TO
21 THE PUBLIC UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, EXCEPT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES
22 IN WHICH A CLOSED MEETING IS PERMITTED BY LAW.

23 (2) AN AGENDA SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT LEAST 3 DAYS

1 PRIOR TO A MEETING IN AN ELECTRONIC FORMAT READILY AVAILABLE TO THE
2 PUBLIC.

3 (3) MEETING MINUTES SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN 2
4 WEEKS IN AN ELECTRONIC FORMAT READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.
5

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that pursuant to Section 1202 of the
7 Baltimore County Charter, the question of whether or not the Charter is to be amended as
8 proposed by this Act shall be submitted to the voters of Baltimore County at the general election
9 on November 3, 2026, and that this Act shall be published in at least two newspapers of general
10 circulation in the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.
11

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that upon ratification by the voters of
13 Baltimore County, this Act shall become effective from and after the thirtieth day following the
14 2026 general election.