COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 13

Resolution No. <u>40-25</u>

Mr. <u>David Marks</u>, Councilman

By the County Council, <u>August 4, 2025</u>

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council encouraging the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation during the 2026 Legislative Session providing that the Baltimore County Board of Education is subject to the jurisdiction and oversight of the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the County's Public School System is supported substantially through funds provided by Baltimore County Government and County taxpayers; in fact, each year, approximately half of the County's budget is appropriated to the County School System; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in the Baltimore County Code by the Baltimore County Council in 2019 and codified in the County Charter by the County Council and County voters in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the OIG is to provide increased accountability and oversight in the operations of County Government by identifying: (1) fraud, waste, and abuse in County Government; and (2) ways to promote efficiency, accountability, and integrity in County Government; and

WHEREAS, as the largest recipient by far of County funds, the County School System and County Board of Education, should also logically be subject to the independent oversight of the

OIG; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly previously considered similar legislation requested by the Baltimore County Administration for OIG oversight of the County Board of Education during the 2021 Legislative Session in Senate Bill 655 (sponsored by then-Senator Klausmeier) and House Bill 751 (sponsored by Delegate Ebersole); and

WHEREAS, given the very public controversy this year over the County School System's budget, the Baltimore County Council believes it is now the appropriate time to advance more transparency and accountability in the County Board of Education, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Council encourages the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation during the 2026 Legislative Session providing that the Baltimore County Board of Education is subject to the jurisdiction and oversight of the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Maryland; the Baltimore County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly; and the Baltimore County Executive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.