
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

Analyst: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

Keywords: #TransparencyinGovt
Other search terms: audit, accounting, contracting, Inspector General, Office of Internal Audit

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE
This Bill would increase the legislative oversight of the County’s internal accounting and contracting processes. It would require the Office of Internal Audit to prepare an annual work plan and expand the duties of the Inspector General. The Bill would require the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County’s internal controls and processes, and based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group by group review of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch. The Bill would also require the IG to audit large County contracts funded in the operating budget.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS
• The need for better legislative oversight by the Council.
• The best way to help the Council improve its legislative oversight of the Executive Branch.

This report contains:
Detailed Staff Report 1

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MEMORANDUM

May 3, 2019

TO: County Council

FROM: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 11-19, Administration - Internal Audit - Inspector General - Amendments

PURPOSE: Introduction - no Council votes required

Bill 11-19, Administration - Internal Audit - Inspector General - Amendments, sponsored by Lead Sponsor the Audit Committee, is scheduled to be introduced on May 7, 2019. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.¹

Bill 11-19 would improve the legislative oversight of the County’s internal accounting and contracting processes. The Bill would require the Office of Internal Audit to prepare an annual work plan for approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and submit the work plan to the Council for comment. The Bill would also require the Office to submit an annual report to the Inspector General (IG).

The Bill would also expand the IG’s duties by requiring the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County’s internal controls and processes, and based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group by group review of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch. The Bill would also require the IG to audit each completed County contract funded in the operating budget with a contract value greater than $1 million.

This packet contains:

Bill 11-19

Legislative Request Report

¹#TransparencyinGovt
Other search terms: audit, accounting, contracting, Inspector General, Office of Internal Audit
COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Audit Committee

AN ACT to:

(1) increase the legislative oversight of the County’s internal accounting and contracting processes;
(2) modify the duties of the Office of Internal Audit;
(3) expand the duties and authority of the Inspector General; and
(4) generally amend the law governing the Office of Internal Audit and the Inspector General.

By amending
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 2, Administration
Sections 2-25A and 2-151

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:
Sec. 1. Sections 2-25A and 2-151 are amended as follows:

2-25A. Office of Internal Audit — Functions.
The Office of Internal Audit is part of the Office of the County Executive. The Office of Internal Audit must conduct its work in accordance with professional standards relevant to internal audit.

(a) Duties. The Office must:

[(a)] (1) identify areas of risk in accountability systems;
[(b)] (2) conduct fiscal, contract, performance, and information system audits, and attestation engagements;
[(c)] (3) undertake investigative audits and audits required by law;
[(d)] (4) provide advice to County departments and offices on internal control issues;
[(e)] (5) communicate actions necessary to enhance accountability;
and
[(f)] (6) conduct other investigations and audits as directed by the Chief Administrative Officer.

(b) Annual workplan. The Office must create an annual workplan subject to the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer must submit the annual workplan to the Council for review and comment on or before each June 1.

(c) Annual report. The Office must submit a report to the Inspector General on or before each September 15. The report must include the Executive’s implementation of each written recommendation:

(1) made by the Inspector General in the previous fiscal year;
(2) made by the Office in the previous fiscal year; and
(3) identified by the Office of Legislative Oversight for action by the Executive in the previous fiscal year.

Powers and Duties.

(1) The Inspector General must attempt to identify actions which would enhance the productivity, effectiveness, or efficiency of programs and operations of County government and independent County agencies. In developing recommendations, the Inspector General may:

[(1)] (A) conduct investigations, budgetary analyses, and financial, management, or performance audits and similar reviews; and

[(2)] (B) seek assistance from any other government agency or private party[,] or undertake any project jointly with any other governmental agency or private body.

(2) The Inspector General must:

(A) in coordination with the Office of Internal Audit, conduct a risk analysis of the County's internal controls and processes;

(B) based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group by group review of the County's internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch;

(C) review and evaluate compliance with Federal, State, and County laws by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch; and

(D) conduct an audit of each completed County contract funded in the operating budget with a contract value greater than $1 million.
In each project of the Office, the Inspector General should uphold the
objective of complying with applicable generally accepted government
auditing standards.

Work plan. The Inspector General must direct the activities of the Office
of the Inspector General, subject to a work plan for the Inspector
General's 4-year term which the Inspector General must adopt within 6
months after being appointed. The Inspector General may amend the plan
during a term. The Inspector General must consider recommendations
and may seek suggestions for the work plan from the Executive, the
County Council, the head of each independent County agency,
employees of County government and independent County agencies,
employee organizations, and individual citizens. The work plan must
include the risk analysis, systematic review, and audits required in
subsection (h). The Inspector General must release the work plan to the
public but may treat any item or suggestion for an item as confidential
when advance public or agency knowledge of that item or suggestion
would frustrate or substantially impede the work of the Office.

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Approved:

Nancy Navarro, President, County Council

Approved:

Marc Eirich, County Executive
LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 11-19
Administration – Internal Audit – Inspector General - Amendments

DESCRIPTION: Bill 11-19 would increase the legislative oversight of the County’s internal accounting and contracting processes. The Bill would require the Office of Internal Audit to prepare an annual work plan for approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and submit the work plan to the Council for comment. The Bill would also require the Office to submit an annual report to the Inspector General (IG).

The Bill would expand the IG’s duties by requiring the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County’s internal controls and processes, and based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group by group review of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch. The Bill would also require the IG to audit each completed County contract funded in the operating budget with a contract value greater than $1 million.

PROBLEM: The Council needs more support from the IG and the Office of Internal Audit to improve its oversight of the Executive Branch.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The goal is to help the Council improve its oversight of the Executive Branch.

COORDINATION: Office of Internal Audit, CAO, County Attorney, Inspector General

FISCAL IMPACT: To be provided

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be provided

EVALUATION: To be provided

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: N/A

PENALTIES: N/A