

HOUSE BILL 1627

L2, P3

6lr3714
CF 6lr3715

By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Office of the Inspector General – Access to Public Records**

3 **Ho. Co. 15–26**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that the Office of the Inspector General for Howard County
5 shall have access to and inspect certain public records under certain circumstances;
6 prohibiting a custodian from denying the Office of the Inspector General for Howard
7 County access to a public record under certain circumstances; providing that
8 redisclosure of certain information is subject to certain restrictions; and generally
9 relating to access to public records by the Office of the Inspector General for Howard
10 County.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – General Provisions
13 Section 4–302
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – General Provisions**

19 **4–302.**

20 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE
21 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR HOWARD COUNTY SHALL HAVE ACCESS
22 TO AND MAY INSPECT A PUBLIC RECORD, AND A CUSTODIAN MAY NOT DENY ACCESS
23 TO A PUBLIC RECORD OR PART OF A PUBLIC RECORD, IF:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) A STATE OR LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZES THE OFFICE OF THE**
2 **INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR HOWARD COUNTY TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND INSPECT**
3 **THE PUBLIC RECORD; AND**

4 **(2) THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR HOWARD**
5 **COUNTY DETERMINES THAT ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD IS NECESSARY TO**
6 **PERFORM AN AUDIT OF:**

7 **(I) THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT;**

8 **(II) AN AGENCY OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT; OR**

9 **(III) THE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

10 **(B) ANY REDISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN A PUBLIC**
11 **RECORD THAT IS OBTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR**
12 **HOWARD COUNTY OR ANY EMPLOYEE OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE**
13 **OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR HOWARD COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION**
14 **IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2026.