

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 922 – *Office of Legislative Audits – Acceptance and Investigation of Allegations of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse*.

This bill requires the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) to maintain a fraud hotline for the reporting of allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse of State resources. Each unit of State government must post and distribute specified information prepared by OLA relating to the reporting of fraud, waste, and abuse. In addition, OLA must, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the State Prosecutor, evaluate and develop appropriate statutory or regulatory language to enhance the authority, duties, and powers of OLA related to investigations of acts or allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse; coordinate and cooperate with appropriate prosecutorial entities to maximize the effectiveness of investigations conducted by OLA; and require State agencies to report any instance of possible criminal or unethical behavior in the obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use of State resources at the agency to OLA unless otherwise prohibited by law.

House Bill 756, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 922.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor