



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

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Via Email

The Honorable Marc R. Pacheco, Chair
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
State House, Room 312-B
Boston, MA 02133
Marc.Pacheco@masenate.gov

The Honorable Antonio F.D. Cabral, Chair
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
State House, Room 22
Boston, MA 02133
Antonio.Cabral@mahouse.gov

Re: House 5, An Act Relative to Inspector General Annual Reports

Dear Chair Pacheco and Chair Cabral:

I write in support of House 5, *An Act Relative to Inspector General Annual Reports*. As you know, the Office of the Inspector General (Office) is an independent state agency charged with preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse in the use of public funds and public property. Chapter 12A, the Office's enabling statute, requires submission of an annual report outlining the work conducted over the prior year to the Governor and the Legislature. Two embedded units in the Office must also submit separate annual reports to the Legislature. House 5 modifies this requirement and directs the units to submit their annual reports to the Inspector General. These reports would be included in the Office's annual report.

The Internal Special Audit Unit (ISAU) was created by the Legislature in 2009.¹ The ISAU is tasked with monitoring the quality, efficiency and integrity of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) operating and capital programs. The ISAU also provides oversight of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). In addition, Section 196 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015 requires the ISAU to evaluate the MBTA's efforts to save taxpayer funds by privatizing some of its services.

¹ Section 9(e) of Chapter 6C of the General Laws was passed through the enactment of Section 9(a) of Chapter 25 of the Acts of 2009.

To fulfill its mandate, the ISAU has conducted numerous audits and investigations. For instance, the ISAU began an in-depth review of the Merit Rating Board within the Registry of Motor Vehicles. In addition, the ISAU reviewed a municipal roadway improvement program funded by the state's Chapter 90 program. The investigation determined that due to weak contract administration the municipality overpaid a contractor. The ISAU annual report outlines its analysis and recommendations made to MassDOT to prevent future fraud, waste and abuse. Annually, the ISAU submits its report to the Joint Committee on Transportation and the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees.

Similarly, in 2018, the Legislature created the Division of State Police Oversight (DSPO).² The DSPO is responsible for monitoring the quality, efficiency and integrity of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP). The DSPO also monitors policy changes instituted as a result of the State Police's certification or accreditation by a state or national police accrediting agency.

With these charges, the DSPO has commenced a series of reviews and investigations. For example, the DSPO analyzed MSP time and attendance policies to determine whether they will prevent fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. In addition, the DSPO reviewed the methodology of the MSP audit on 50 troopers who received the most earnings in the previous quarter. The DSPO determined the methodology did not properly identify overtime fraud. These and other findings and recommendations are published in the DSPO's annual report to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees.

As described above, the Office's annual report details the work from all the Office's divisions, including the ISAU and the DSPO. House 5 simplifies the process, allowing the Inspector General to include reports from the embedded units in the Office's annual report. The Inspector General submits the annual report to the Governor, the Secretary of Administration and Finance, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the Ways and Means Committees, and the Senate and House Committees on Post Audit and Oversight. House 5 would direct the Inspector General to also submit the annual report to the Joint Committee on Transportation and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Thank you for your consideration of House 5. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Glenn A. Cunha
Inspector General

² Section 72 of Chapter 22C of the General Laws was passed through the enactment of Section 23 of Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018.