

March 3, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Senator Rebecca L. Rausch, Chair
Joint Committee on Municipalities
and Regional Government
State House, Room 215
Boston, MA 02133
Becca.Rausch@masenate.gov

Representative Jack Patrick Lewis, Chair
Joint Committee on Municipalities
and Regional Government
State House, Room 448
Boston, MA 02133
Jack.Lewis@mahouse.gov

Re: House 4924, Boston Inspector General Legislation

Dear Chair Rausch and Chair Lewis:

I write to you regarding House 4924, *An Act to amend the operations of the city of Boston Finance Commission to establish the Boston Inspector General Oversight Commission*.

This legislation establishes an Inspector General for the City of Boston (Boston OIG) at the municipal level, as well as a Boston Inspector General Oversight Commission to oversee the duties of the newly established office.

As the Inspector General of Massachusetts, I am in a unique position among inspectors general across the country, as the only one having jurisdiction over preventing fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds at both the state and municipal levels. As such, I am encouraged to see efforts to promote the proper stewardship of taxpayer and other sources of public funding, transparency in public spending and public procurement. It is important that any such office must be set up in line with the key principles established by the Association of Inspectors General (AIG), the international professional association for Inspectors General.

The City of Boston's Inspector General should be aligned with these same key principles:

- An inspector general's office should be independent with the ability to follow the facts, wherever they lead.
- Enabling language must lay out the qualifications for the inspector general and staff.
- The OIG must have the authority to compel document production, and agency heads must be required to cooperate with the office.
- Investigations must be kept confidential until completion.
- The language should also provide whistleblower protections for those who have information that could be pertinent to the OIG's work.
- Supporting the idea of independence, the inspector general must have a term that is not co-terminus with its appointing authority and may only be removed for cause.

These are key principles of a true inspector general's office. As currently drafted, this legislation and the office established by it follow these principles.

While this proposal establishes a Boston-focused Inspector General, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (MA OIG) still retains its own independent investigational jurisdiction over the city. Our enabling statute, Chapter 12A of the Massachusetts General Laws, gives the MA OIG broad authority over state and municipal spending, which is not ceded if a Boston OIG were to be created. This effort would provide greater not less protection. Given the size of the city budget and the population of the city of Boston, it is not duplicative to have another independent watchdog overseeing the proper expenditure of such a large budget. Nonetheless, I do not see a need for any further expansion for municipal Inspectors Generals in the Commonwealth beyond the city of Boston.

The Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General is proud of its work within the city of Boston and sees no reason to limit any such further efforts. Some examples of past work done by the MA OIG within Boston include:

- a [2023 review of the Boston Public Schools' school bus transportation contract](#),
- an [investigation into post-retirement earnings violations by a former Boston Public Schools headmaster](#), and
- a review and [report on practices at the former Boston Redevelopment Authority](#), including the very bad deal for the people of Boston with the Boston Red Sox Jersey Street event day easement transaction.

As strong and results oriented as the MA OIG is, I believe there is space for a Boston OIG, so long as the authority and mandate of the MA OIG remains unchanged. Having an inspector general focused on the intricacies and scale of the city of Boston would complement the work of this office.

Thank you for your consideration.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Jeffrey.S.Shapiro@mass.gov or 617-722-8806, or Joshua Giles, Director of Government Outreach and Public Policy, at Joshua.Giles@mass.gov or 617-719-8225.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Shapiro, Esq., CIG
Inspector General

cc (by email):

Joshua Giles, Director, Government Outreach and Public Policy, OIG
Nataliya Urciuoli, Senior Executive Assistant, OIG