The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:
Sec. 1. Section 2-151 is amended as follows:


* * *

(g) Staff; Legal Counsel.

(1) The Inspector General may, subject to appropriation and all applicable merit system laws and regulations, appoint as term employees the staff of the Office of the Inspector General. The term of each employee should end when the next Inspector General takes office unless the Inspector General specifies a shorter term when appointing the employee. The Inspector General may also, subject to appropriation, retain project staff or other consultants by contract. The Inspector General may, with the agreement of the head of any other government department or agency, temporarily detail an employee of that department or agency to the Office of the Inspector General.

(2) The County Attorney must provide legal services to the Inspector General, and may employ special legal counsel for the Inspector General under Section 213 of the Charter. [If the Inspector General asks the County Attorney in writing to employ a special legal counsel and the County Attorney does not do so within 30 days after receiving the Inspector General's request, the County Attorney must inform the County Council why a special counsel was not employed.]

(3) The Inspector General may employ and be represented by a special legal counsel who is not subject to the authority of the County Attorney, or may obtain legal services from persons
outside the Office of the County Attorney, without the approval of the County Attorney if:

(A) the Inspector General finds that obtaining independent legal services is necessary to effectively perform his or her duties; [and]

(B) the County Attorney has had a reasonable opportunity to comment on the qualifications of the person or firm that the Inspector General has selected to provide those services; and

(C) the County Council approves the Inspector General’s decision to obtain independent legal services and appropriates sufficient funds to cover the cost of the legal services.

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Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date. The Council declares that this Act is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date when it becomes law.

Approved:

Philip M. Andrews, President, County Council

Approved:

Isah Leggett, County Executive

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council