

with these practices. They are quite willing to provide their own recommendations for reform of the practices of the Legislative Auditor, and in many cases have already done so.

As I indicated above, my concern with Senate Bill 254 is that it represents a piecemeal approach to the recommendations for reforming the Office of Legislative Auditor. To take just one recommendation without adopting the other changes would threaten the checks and balances of the overall evaluation. Because the budget does not reflect any decrease in authorized positions in the Office due to the reduced workload which should result from Senate Bill 254, I am also concerned that switching to a four year schedule for selected audits would simply allow the Office to assign additional auditors to selected agencies. However, there is no evidence suggesting that current audit staffing assignments to the agencies are inadequate. The extra staffing would have the effect only of further hindering the agencies' ability to meet their responsibilities to the people of this State.

While I commend the General Assembly for considering the issue of privatizing the Office, I do not feel that enough has been done to pursue this option. Nor do I feel that the long-standing complaints of the Executive Branch agencies with regard to the Office have been adequately considered. Further, this one change, taken without regard to the other recommendations for reform, could be used by the Office to exacerbate an already problematic situation.

For these reasons, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 254.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Senate Bill No. 254

AN ACT concerning

Legislative Auditor – Audits of State Units

FOR the purpose of altering the minimum frequency with which the Office of Legislative Audits is required to audit each unit of State government; and requiring the Office to take certain factors into account in determining the audit schedule for a unit.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 2-1215(a)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1984 Volume and 1992 Supplement)

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

Article – State Government

2-1215.