



CHAMPIONING BETTER GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

# OSIG NEWS

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## **OSIG Marks Fifth Anniversary with Millions in Potential Savings for the Commonwealth**

On July 1, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) celebrates its fifth anniversary, a milestone marked by millions of dollars in potential savings for Virginia's taxpayers, as well as a robust plan for the future.

Created in 2012 by an act of the General Assembly, OSIG provides independent oversight of the commonwealth's executive branch agencies, with a mission to detect and deter fraud, waste and abuse and promote efficiency and effectiveness in government programs and operations.

Since its founding, OSIG has identified more than \$12 million in annual, reoccurring savings and generated an additional \$1.6 million in one-time savings as a result of its performance review and audit recommendations. In collaboration with investigative partners, the agency also recovered nearly \$1.2 million in restitution and another \$21 million in forfeiture money stemming from criminal investigations.

"Our role is to ferret out wasteful spending, fraud and abuse in the commonwealth's executive branch agencies and provide reasonable solutions to improve operations," said Acting State Inspector General Michael Westfall. "Our guiding principle is to remain independent and reach objective decisions based on facts and evidence," he added.

A watchdog for the citizens of Virginia, the agency fully informs agency heads, the Governor's office and the General Assembly of significant findings. It has provided detailed audits and reviews of more than 20 government agencies, offered more than 1,000 recommendations for improved financial controls and other efficiencies and managed nearly 3,000 State Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline calls over the last five years.

"OSIG is now at full staff and prepared to move forward in fiscal year 2018 with a rigorous work plan of audits, reviews, inspections and investigations," said Westfall. "It's truly an honor to serve in this role," he added.

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The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) was established July 1, 2012, to investigate fraud, waste, abuse and corruption in executive branch state government. The agency manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance reviews of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit divisions; and conducts inspections and reviews of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services facilities and programs. Additional information is available at [www.osig.virginia.gov](http://www.osig.virginia.gov).