

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 292

BY SENATOR STINE

GOVERNOR. Provides for the office and duties of the office of the state inspector general.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 49:220.21, 220.23, and 220.24 and to repeal 49:220.26; relative
3 to the powers and duties of the office of the state inspector general; to provide for an
4 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 49:220.21, 220.23, and 220.24 are hereby amended and reenacted to
7 read as follows:

8 §220.21. Office of the state inspector general; policy and purpose

9 A. ~~The prevention and detection of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement,~~
10 ~~misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in all departments, offices, agencies,~~
11 ~~boards, commissions, task forces, authorities, and divisions of the executive branch~~
12 ~~of state government as specifically provided in Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised~~
13 ~~Statutes of 1950, all hereinafter referred to in this Part collectively as "covered~~
14 ~~agencies" and individually as "covered agency", is an important responsibility of the~~
15 ~~state. The efficient and optimal execution of legislative will is an important~~
16 ~~responsibility of the executive branch. The executive branch is compelled to find~~
17 ~~efficiency and optimization, to detect waste, inefficiency, and mismanagement,~~

1 and to prevent misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in all departments,
 2 offices, agencies, boards, commissions, task forces, authorities, and divisions of
 3 the executive branch of state government as specifically provided in Title 36 of
 4 the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, referred to in this Part collectively as
 5 "covered agencies" and individually as "covered agency".

6 B. In view of the responsibility of the state, it is the purpose of this Part to
 7 establish an independent office of the state inspector general in the office of the
 8 governor to examine and investigate the management and affairs of covered
 9 agencies.

10 * * *

11 §220.23. State inspector general **and chief integrity officer**; appointment; term;
 12 vacancy; compensation; removal

13 A.(1) There shall be a state inspector general, hereinafter referred to as the
 14 "inspector general" **and "chief integrity officer"**, who shall be appointed by the
 15 governor with the consent of the Senate. No person appointed inspector general shall
 16 hold or be a candidate for any elective office, including elective political party office,
 17 or any other public office or political party office. No person shall be appointed
 18 inspector general who has held any elective office or political party office within two
 19 years immediately preceding his appointment. No former inspector general shall be
 20 eligible to qualify as a candidate for any elective office, including elective political
 21 party office, nor shall he assume any elective office or political party office within
 22 four years after the termination of his service as inspector general.

23 (2) If a vacancy exists in the office of the state inspector general for more
 24 than six months, then the holder of the next highest level administrative position in
 25 the office shall become the inspector general, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

26 ~~(3) Not later than one year from the date of appointment, if not already~~
 27 ~~certified, the inspector general shall obtain certification as a Certified Inspector~~
 28 ~~General from the Association of Inspectors General.~~

29 B. The inspector general shall serve a six-year term.

1 C. The salary of the inspector general shall be fixed by the governor, which
2 amount shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature
3 while in session. The salary of the inspector general may not be reduced by the
4 governor or the legislature during his term of office.

5 D.~~(1)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, the
6 inspector general may be removed by the governor provided such removal is
7 approved by a majority vote of each house of the legislature.

8 ~~(2) In order to obtain the consent of a majority of the elected members of~~
9 ~~each house of the legislature, the clerk of the House of Representatives and the~~
10 ~~secretary of the Senate shall prepare and transmit a ballot to each member of the~~
11 ~~legislature by certified mail with return receipt requested, unless it is determined that~~
12 ~~the legislature will be in session in time for the ballots to be distributed to them and~~
13 ~~returned by them during the session. The ballot shall be uniform and include~~
14 ~~pertinent information as the clerk and secretary shall determine.~~

15 §220.24. Authority; duties; powers; standards; functions

16 A. The inspector general shall serve as the executive head and chief
17 administrative officer of the office and shall have responsibility for the policies of
18 the office, except as otherwise provided by this Part, and for the administration,
19 control, and operation of the functions and affairs of the office.

20 B. The inspector general is authorized to examine and investigate the
21 management and affairs of the covered agencies ~~concerning waste, inefficiencies,~~
22 ~~mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption;~~ **to find efficiency and**
23 **optimization, to detect waste, inefficiency, and mismanagement, and to prevent**
24 **misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption;** and he may conduct all necessary
25 investigations into such areas, including but not limited to:

26 ~~(1) Misuse of state-owned automobiles, planes, watercraft, and all other~~
27 ~~movable and immovable property.~~

28 ~~(2) Evidence of a pattern of excessive bills on state contracts.~~

29 ~~(3) Unauthorized use of leave.~~

1 ~~(4) Mismanagement of governmental operations.~~

2 ~~(5) Waste or abuse of things of value belonging to or used by the covered~~
3 ~~agencies.~~

4 ~~(6) Construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities.~~

5 **(1) Eliminate wasteful spending.**

6 **(2) Improve government efficiency.**

7 **(3) Optimize and modernize government operations.**

8 C.(1) The inspector general shall help prevent waste, inefficiency,
9 mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in covered agencies by
10 periodically reviewing policies and procedures and monitoring operations and
11 making recommendations for improvement.

12 (2) The inspector general shall receive complaints of waste, inefficiency,
13 mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, or corruption in covered agencies and
14 determine whether they warrant investigation by the inspector general or by
15 appropriate federal, state, or local agencies or may conduct such investigations upon
16 his own initiative. In order to accomplish this, the office of the inspector general
17 shall maintain a ~~toll-free fraud hotline number and web site~~ **website** for anonymous
18 reporting **complaints**.

19 ~~(3) The inspector general shall investigate complaints of waste, inefficiencies,~~
20 ~~mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption and, when appropriate,~~
21 ~~recommend whether disciplinary action or further investigation by appropriate~~
22 ~~federal, state, or local agencies is warranted and take further action as appropriate.~~

23 ~~(4) The inspector general shall report complaints of fraud, abuse, or~~
24 ~~corruption to such federal, state, or local agencies when there is evidence of what~~
25 ~~may be criminal activity and when otherwise appropriate and shall otherwise~~
26 ~~cooperate with such agencies in any further action.~~

27 ~~(5) The inspector general shall make reports of his findings to the governor.~~
28 ~~Such reports shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 44:1 et seq.~~

29 ~~(6) The inspector general shall submit an annual report to the governor and~~

1 ~~the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget at the end of each fiscal year that~~
2 ~~describes the accomplishments and contributions made by the office toward~~
3 ~~achieving the mission of helping to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in~~
4 ~~Louisiana government. Upon completion, as indicated by signature of the inspector~~
5 ~~general, all final reports of the inspector general immediately shall be filed with the~~
6 ~~Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and shall include the response of the~~
7 ~~agency, if any. All such reports shall be provided to the staff of the governor's office~~
8 ~~and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget upon request.~~

9 D. The inspector general shall provide for an opportunity for agency response
10 ~~to respond prior to the release of a report unless the inspector general, in conjunction~~
11 ~~with a United States attorney, the state attorney general, district attorneys, or other~~
12 ~~prosecutorial agencies, determines that supplying the affected person or entity with~~
13 ~~such report will jeopardize a pending or potential criminal investigation. (1) The~~
14 ~~inspector general shall submit an annual report to the governor and the Joint~~
15 ~~Legislative Committee on the Budget at the end of each fiscal year that~~
16 ~~describes the accomplishments and contributions made by the office toward~~
17 ~~achieving the mission of helping to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse~~
18 ~~in Louisiana government.~~

19 (2) The inspector general shall make reports of his findings to the
20 governor. Such reports shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 44:1 et seq. The
21 inspector general shall provide for an opportunity for a covered agency to
22 respond prior to release of a report unless the inspector general, in consultation
23 with a United States attorney, the state attorney general, district attorney, or
24 other prosecutorial agencies, determines that supplying the affected person or
25 covered agency with such report will jeopardize a pending or potential criminal
26 investigation. Upon completion, as indicated by the signature of the inspector
27 general, all final reports of the inspector general shall be filed immediately with
28 the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and shall include the response
29 of the covered agency, if any.

1 E. All officers and employees of covered agencies shall extend full
2 cooperation and all reasonable assistance to the inspector general.

3 F.(1) In the performance of his duties, the inspector general and any member
4 of his staff designated by him may seek and obtain sworn testimony from any person
5 using the same procedure as is provided for taking depositions provided for in
6 ~~Article 1443~~ in the Code of Civil Procedure **Article 1443**.

7 (2) In the performance of his duties, the inspector general or any member of
8 his staff designated by him may compel the attendance of witnesses to be deposed
9 under oath or the production of public and private records by issuing a subpoena.
10 However, ~~such~~ a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum shall be issued only upon
11 approval of a judge of the district court of the parish in which the office of inspector
12 general is domiciled upon application in writing by the inspector general. ~~The judge~~
13 ~~shall issue a written decision within seventy-two hours after receipt of such~~
14 ~~application.~~ Any subpoena for production of private records shall be in compliance
15 with all applicable constitutionally established rights and processes. The subpoena
16 may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the addressee's residence
17 or business address, or by representatives appointed by the inspector general, or may
18 be directed for service to the office of the state police. If a person refuses to obey a
19 subpoena issued by the inspector general, upon application by the inspector general,
20 the district court of the parish in which the office of inspector general is domiciled
21 may issue an order to the person requiring the person to appear before the court to
22 show cause why an order shall not be issued ordering such person to obey the
23 subpoena, and the person may be adjudged in contempt of court.

24 ~~(3)~~**G.** The inspector general shall have access to all records, information,
25 data, reports, plans, projections, matters, contracts, memoranda, correspondence, and
26 any other materials of a covered agency and shall be deemed to be an authorized
27 representative and agent of each covered agency for the purposes of:

28 ~~(a)~~**(1)** Examining and investigating the records of all contractors,
29 subcontractors, grantees, or subgrantees of covered agencies, which records relate

1 to contracts, subcontracts, grants, or subgrants with a covered agency.

2 ~~(b)(2)~~ Obtaining access to any records of a covered agency in the possession
3 of a third party, including but not limited to bank account records.

4 ~~G.H.~~ The inspector general and employees of the inspector general shall
5 carry identifying cards.

6 ~~H. The office of the state inspector general shall adhere to professional~~
7 ~~standards for initiating and conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and~~
8 ~~reviews such as those promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General. The~~
9 ~~office shall develop an operations manual that contains such standards and shall~~
10 ~~make it available to the public.~~

11 I. The inspector general shall engage in prevention activities, including but
12 not limited to reviewing legislation, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and
13 transactions; providing for training and education; and making recommendations to
14 the governor and the legislature to strengthen public integrity laws.

15 J. The office of the state inspector general is hereby designated as a law
16 enforcement agency and conferred all investigative powers and privileges
17 appurtenant to a law enforcement agency under state law as necessary and in
18 furtherance of the authority, duties, powers, and functions set forth in this Part. These
19 powers and privileges ~~shall not include arrest powers but~~ shall include access to
20 computer systems, information maintained for the use of law enforcement personnel,
21 and any information contained in the criminal history record and identification file
22 of the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. **These powers**
23 **shall not include arrest powers.**

24 ~~K. Upon credible information of corruption or fraud, the office of the state~~
25 ~~inspector general shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent~~
26 ~~to notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency, the inspector general may assist~~
27 ~~the law enforcement agency in conducting the investigation. Upon detecting a~~
28 violation of one of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the office of
29 the state inspector general may file a complaint with the Board of Ethics.

1 L. The office of the state inspector general may conduct joint investigations
2 and projects with other oversight or law enforcement agencies.

3 M. In order to fulfill the requirements of this Section, the inspector
4 general shall have the authority to contract for such professional services,
5 without public bid, as are reasonably necessary.

6 N. The inspector general shall do all things necessary to carry out the
7 functions set forth in this Part.

8 Section 2. R.S. 49:220.26 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

9 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
10 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
11 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
12 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
13 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 292 Original

2026 Regular Session

Stine

Present law provides for the office of the state inspector general within the office of the governor for the prevention and detection of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in executive branch agencies "covered agencies".

Present law provides for the appointment of the state inspector general by the governor with Senate consent; provides qualifications and prohibitions regarding political activity; provides for a six-year term; provides for salary protections; and provides for removal by the governor with majority approval from each house of the legislature.

Present law authorizes the inspector general to examine and investigate the management and affairs of covered agencies; investigate complaints; operate a fraud hotline; issue reports; make recommendations; and cooperate with prosecutorial authorities.

Present law authorizes the inspector general to obtain sworn testimony and to issue subpoenas, subject to judicial approval.

Present law provides the inspector general access to records of covered agencies and certain third parties.

Present law requires annual reporting to the governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Present law designates the office as a law enforcement agency for investigative purposes but

does not grant arrest powers.

Present law authorizes joint investigations and contracting for professional services.

Present law states that prevention and detection of waste, inefficiency, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in executive branch agencies are important responsibilities of the state.

Proposed law retains these purposes but revises and expands policy language to emphasize the executive branch's duty to ensure efficient and optimal execution of legislative will, to find efficiency and optimization, and to modernize and improve government operations.

Proposed law also establishes the inspector general as both "state inspector general" and "chief integrity officer".

Present law provides for appointment by the governor with Senate consent; establishes eligibility restrictions; provides a six-year term; sets compensation; and provides removal procedures requiring legislative approval.

Proposed law retains the appointment process, term, salary protections, political activity restrictions, and removal procedures.

Proposed law adds a provision that if a vacancy exists for more than six months, the holder of the next highest level administrative position shall become inspector general, subject to Senate confirmation.

Proposed law requires the inspector general to obtain certification as a certified inspector general within one year of appointment if not already certified.

Present law authorizes the inspector general to investigate waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption, including specified examples such as misuse of state property and excessive contract billing.

Proposed law reorganizes and expands the inspector general's duties to include eliminating wasteful spending, improving government efficiency, optimizing and modernizing operations, and strengthening public integrity laws.

Proposed law clarifies reporting requirements by restructuring annual reporting provisions and procedures for agency response prior to report release, including consultation with prosecutorial authorities when criminal investigations may be jeopardized.

Proposed law retains subpoena authority and judicial oversight but reorganizes related provisions for clarity.

Proposed law clarifies and reorganizes provisions regarding access to records of covered agencies and third parties.

Proposed law continues designation of the office as a law enforcement agency for investigative purposes and reiterates that such authority does not include arrest powers.

Proposed law retains authority to conduct joint investigations and to contract for professional services without public bid when reasonably necessary.

Present law provides for appointment of reserve investigators and for their qualifications.

Proposed law repeals this provision.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 49:220.21, 220.23, and 220.24; repeals R.S. 49:220.26)