
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 Reengrossed

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.

Present 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 removes the provision that if a vacancy exists for more than six months, the holder of the next highest level administrative position shall become inspector general.

Present 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 retains present law that requires the office of the state inspector general to adhere to professional standards for initiating and conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and reviews such as those promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

Proposed law removes present law that required the office to develop an operations manual.

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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Removes provision where if a vacancy exists for six months, the next highest administrative position becomes the inspector general.
3. Retains present law that the office of the state inspector general shall adhere to professional standards for initiating and conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and reviews such as those promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.