RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 417 (SB 292) **2026 Regular Session** **Stine**

Existing law creates the office of the state inspector general (OSIG) with an "inspector general" appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate to serve a six year term and receive a salary fixed by the governor not exceeding the amount approved by the legislature while in session.

New law provides that the "inspector general" is also the "chief integrity officer".

New law (R.S. 49:220.23) removes the prohibition that no person be appointed inspector general who has held an elective office or political party office within two years immediately preceding the appointment. Retains existing law provision that no former inspector general be eligible to qualify as a candidate for elective office, including elected political party office nor assume elective office or political party office within four years after termination as inspector general.

New law removes provisions that if a vacancy exists in the OSIG for more than six months, then the holder of the next highest level administrative position in the office is to become the inspector general, subject to Senate confirmation. Further removes the requirement that no later than one year from the date of appointment the inspector general is to obtain certification as a Certified Inspector General from the Association of Inspectors General.

New law retains provisions providing for removal of the inspector general by the governor upon approval by a majority vote of each house of the legislature.

New law removes the ballot procedure for obtaining majority consent of the legislature to remove the inspector general.

New law retains authority of inspector general to examine and investigate the management and affairs of the covered agencies to find efficiency and optimization, to detect waste, inefficiency, and mismanagement, and to prevent misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption. Authorizes necessary investigations for the purpose of eliminating wasteful spending, improving government efficiency, and optimizing and modernizing government operations.

New law requires the inspector general to make reports to the governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on the budget at the end of each fiscal year. Requires the inspector general to provide an opportunity for agency response prior to the release of a report unless there is a determination that supplying the report will jeopardize a pending or potential criminal investigation.

Existing law authorizes issuance of a subpoena only upon approval of a judge of the district court if the parish in which the OSIG is domiciled upon application in writing by the inspector general. Requires the judge to issue a written decision within 72 hours after receipt of such application.

New law retains existing law but the requirement that the judge issue a written decision within 72 hours.

Existing law provides that the OSIG is designated as a law enforcement agency and conferred powers and privileges given to a law enforcement agency. New law retains existing law but provides that these powers and privileges do not include arrest powers.

New law removes requirement that upon credible information of corruption or fraud, the OSIG is to notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

New law authorizes the inspector general contract for professional services, without public bid, as may be reasonably necessary to fulfill requirements of existing law.

New law removes authority for any person who has served as a full time investigator for the OSIG who retired or otherwise left in good standing and who has maintained certification and currently is certified by the POST Council, or any other person who has served as a

Louisiana peace officer and who has maintained certification and who graduated from a Louisiana POST certified academy to be appointed as a reserve investigator for the OSIG.

Effective May 28, 2026.

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