

DIGEST

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SB 292 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Stine

Present law (R.S. 49:220.21) provides for the purpose of present law and the creation of the office of the state inspector general (OSIG). Provides that the prevention and detection of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in all departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions, task forces, authorities, and divisions of the executive branch of state government is an important responsibility of the state.

Proposed law additionally provides that the efficient and optimal execution of legislative will is an important responsibility of the executive branch. Provides that the executive branch is compelled to meet the responsibility as provided in present law.

Present law (R.S. 49:220.23) provides that the state inspector general shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. Further provides that no person appointed inspector general shall hold or be a candidate for any elective office, including elective political party office or any other public office or political party office, and further provides no former inspector general shall be eligible to qualify as a candidate for any elective office, including elective political party office, nor shall he assume any elective office or political party office within four years after termination of his service as inspector general.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the state inspector general shall be referred to as the "inspector general and "chief integrity officer".

Present law provides 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 shall become the inspector general, subject to Senate confirmation. Further provides no later than one year from the date of appointment, if not already certified, the inspector general shall obtain certification as a Certified Inspector General from the Association of Inspectors General.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that the inspector general shall serve a six-year term. Further provides for the salary and for the removal of the inspector general by the governor upon approval by a majority vote of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for a ballot procedure for obtaining approval for removal.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 49:220.24) provides for the authority, duties, powers, standards, and functions of the inspector general.

Proposed law authorizes the 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. Provides that he may conduct all necessary investigations for the purpose of eliminating wasteful spending, improving government efficiency, and optimizing and modernizing government operations.

Present law provides that the inspector general shall investigate complaints of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption and further provides the inspector general report evidence of criminal activity.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that the inspector general shall 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. Authorizes the inspector general to seek and obtain sworn testimony from any person and to compel the attendance of a witness by issuing a subpoena.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a subpoena will be issued 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. Further requires the judge to issue a written decision within 72 hours after receipt of such application.

Proposed law retains present law and removes the requirement that the judge issue a written decision within 72 hours.

Present law provides that the inspector general has access to all records, information, data, records, plans, projections, matters, contracts, and any other materials of a covered agency.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the OSIG is designated as a law enforcement agency and conferred powers and privileges given to a law enforcement agency.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the powers and privileges do not include arrest powers.

Present law provides that upon credible information of corruption or fraud, the OSIG shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law provides that in order to fulfill the requirements in present law, the inspector general shall have the authority to contract for such professional services, without public bid, as are reasonably necessary.

Present law (R.S. 49:220.26) provides that 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 may be appointed as a reserve investigator for the OSIG. Further provides for requirements, powers, and appointments of a reserve investigator.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective upon signature of 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the reengrossed bill:

1. Remove present law provision that provides that no person shall be appointed inspector general who has held any elective office or political party office within two years immediately preceding his appointment.