

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Office of Inspector  
3           General within the Office of the Commissioner  
4           of Education; amending ss. 229.003, 229.0073,  
5           F.S.; establishing the Office of Inspector  
6           General within the Office of the Commissioner  
7           of Education; providing for the organization of  
8           the Office of Inspector General; providing the  
9           responsibilities of the Office of Inspector  
10          General; requiring the Office of Inspector  
11          General to conduct, coordinate, or request  
12          investigations; providing the powers, duties,  
13          and responsibilities of the Office of Inspector  
14          General; providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (5) of section  
19   229.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20           229.003 Florida education governance reorganization.--

21           (5) Effective July 1, 2001:

22           (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 20.15, the  
23   Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of the Florida  
24   Board of Education shall work together to commence the  
25   reorganization of the Department of Education in accordance  
26   with s. 229.0073, which shall include an Office of the  
27   Commissioner of Education comprised of the general areas of  
28   operation that are common to all delivery sectors and, in  
29   addition, shall include:

30           1. The creation of an Office of Technology and  
31   Information Services, an Office of Workforce and Economic

1 Development, an Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
2 Schools Clearinghouse, ~~and~~ an Office of Student Financial  
3 Assistance, and an Office of Inspector General.

4 2. The creation of a Division of Colleges and  
5 Universities.

6 3. The creation of a Division of Community Colleges.

7 4. The creation of a Division of Public Schools.

8 5. The creation of a Division of Independent  
9 Education.

10 6. The merger of the powers, duties, and staffs of the  
11 State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities and the  
12 State Board of Nonpublic Career Education, except as relating  
13 to any independent nonprofit college or university whose  
14 students are eligible to receive the William L. Boyd, IV,  
15 Florida resident access grants pursuant to s. 240.605, into a  
16 single Commission for Independent Education administratively  
17 housed within the Division of Independent Education.

18 Section 2. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (5) of  
19 section 229.0073, Florida Statutes, to read:

20 229.0073 Reorganization of the Department of  
21 Education.--Effective July 1, 2001, notwithstanding the  
22 provisions of s. 20.15, the secretary's Education  
23 Reorganization Workgroup is established to direct and provide  
24 oversight for the reorganization of Florida's K-20 Department  
25 of Education. The workgroup shall be comprised of the  
26 Secretary of the Florida Board of Education, the Commissioner  
27 of Education, the Governor or his designee, the Chancellor of  
28 Colleges and Universities, the Chancellor of Community  
29 Colleges, the Chancellor of Public Schools, and the Executive  
30 Director of Independent Education, who shall consult with the  
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1 legislative members of the Education Governance Reorganization  
2 Transition Task Force. The reorganization shall:

3 (5) Establish the following offices within the Office  
4 of the Commissioner of Education which shall coordinate their  
5 activities with all other divisions and offices:

6 (e) Office of Inspector General.--The office shall be  
7 organized using existing resources and funds and shall be  
8 responsible for promoting accountability, efficiency, and  
9 effectiveness and detecting fraud and abuse within school  
10 districts, public community colleges, and public universities  
11 in Florida. The office shall conduct, coordinate, or request  
12 investigations into substantiated allegations made by any  
13 person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement  
14 within school districts, public community colleges, and public  
15 universities in Florida. The office shall have access to all  
16 information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and  
17 shall have all of its current powers, duties, and  
18 responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055. This provision shall  
19 not prohibit a district school board from establishing the  
20 office of an independent inspector general for that district.  
21 An independent district inspector general must meet the  
22 requirements for an inspector general established in s. 20.055  
23 and shall have the authority provided to inspector generals in  
24 that section.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
26 law.

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