

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

32-1477-02

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.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
20 law.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Establishes an Office of Inspector General in the Office
25 of the Commissioner of Education. Provides for the
26 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the office.
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