

By the Committee on Education Innovation and
Representative Diaz de la Portilla

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 and
5 229.0073, F.S.; establishing the Office of
6 Inspector General within the Office of the
7 Commissioner of Education; providing for the
8 organization of the Office of Inspector
9 General; providing the responsibilities of the
10 Office of Inspector General; requiring the
11 Office of Inspector General to conduct,
12 coordinate, or request investigations;
13 providing the powers, duties, and
14 responsibilities of the Office of Inspector
15 General; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (5) of section
20 229.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 229.003 Florida education governance reorganization.--

22 (5) Effective July 1, 2001:

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

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1 1. The creation of an Office of Technology and
2 Information Services, an Office of Workforce and Economic
3 Development, an Office of Educational Facilities and SMART
4 Schools Clearinghouse, ~~and~~ an Office of Student Financial
5 Assistance, and an Office of Inspector General.

6 2. The creation of a Division of Colleges and
7 Universities.

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

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

10 5. The creation of a Division of Independent
11 Education.

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

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

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

1 Director of Independent Education, who shall consult with the
2 legislative members of the Education Governance Reorganization
3 Transition Task Force. The reorganization shall:

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

7 (e) Office of Inspector General.--The office shall be
8 organized using existing resources and funds and shall be
9 responsible for promoting accountability, efficiency, and
10 effectiveness and detecting fraud and abuse within school
11 districts, public community colleges, and public universities
12 in Florida. The office shall conduct, coordinate, or request
13 investigations into substantiated allegations made by any
14 person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement
15 within school districts, public community colleges, and public
16 universities in Florida. The office shall have access to all
17 information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and
18 shall have all of its current powers, duties, and
19 responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

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

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