6-1636-06

A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; providing an exemption from 3 4 public-records requirements for audit work 5 papers and reports and investigative work 6 papers and reports held by the inspector 7 general of a state agency in connection with an active audit or investigation; specifying what 8 constitutes an active investigation; requiring 9 10 that a person who is the subject of a complaint be provided a copy of the complaint and 11 12 supporting documents, except as otherwise 13 provided by law; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; 14 providing a statement of public necessity; 15 providing an effective date. 16 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 18 19 Section 1. Present subsections (7) and (8) of section 20 21 20.055, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (8) 22 and (9), respectively, subsection (5) of that section is 23 amended, and a new subsection (7) and subsection (10) are added to that section, to read: 2.4 20.055 Agency inspectors general.--25 (5) In carrying out the auditing duties and 26 27 responsibilities of this act, each inspector general shall review and evaluate internal controls necessary to ensure the fiscal accountability of the state agency. The inspector 29 general shall conduct financial, compliance, electronic data 30 processing, and performance audits of the agency and prepare

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audit reports of his or her findings. The scope and assignment of the audits shall be determined by the inspector general; however, the agency head may at any time direct the inspector general to perform an audit of a special program, function, or organizational unit. The performance of the audit shall be under the direction of the inspector general, except that if the inspector general does not possess the qualifications specified in subsection (4), the director of auditing shall perform the functions listed in this subsection.

(a) Such audits shall be conducted in accordance with the current Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and subsequent Internal Auditing Standards or Statements on Internal Auditing Standards published by the Institute of Internal Auditors, Inc., or, where appropriate, in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards. All audit reports issued by internal audit staff shall include a statement that the audit was conducted pursuant to the appropriate standards.

general in connection with an audit conducted under this section are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the audit is complete or ceases to be active to the extent that such work papers and reports do not include information that has otherwise been made confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. An audit is active while the agency inspector general is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and has a reasonable, good-faith belief that audit conclusions will be reached and communicated to the agency head.

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(c)(b) Audit workpapers and reports shall be public records to the extent that they do not include information which has been made confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) pursuant to law. However, When the inspector general or a member of the staff receives from an individual a complaint or information that falls within the definition provided in s. 112.3187(5), the name or identity of the individual shall not be disclosed to anyone else without the written consent of the individual, unless the inspector general determines that such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of the audit or investigation.

(d)(e) The inspector general and the staff shall have access to any records, data, and other information of the state agency he or she deems necessary to carry out his or her duties. The inspector general is also authorized to request such information or assistance as may be necessary from the state agency or from any federal, state, or local government entity.

(e)(d) At the conclusion of each audit, the inspector general shall submit preliminary findings and recommendations to the person responsible for supervision of the program function or operational unit who shall respond to any adverse findings within 20 working days after receipt of the tentative findings. Such response and the inspector general's rebuttal to the response shall be included in the final audit report.

 $\underline{\text{(f)}(e)}$  The inspector general shall submit the final report to the agency head and to the Auditor General.

 $\underline{(g)(f)}$  The Auditor General, in connection with the independent postaudit of the same agency pursuant to s. 11.45, shall give appropriate consideration to internal audit reports and the resolution of findings therein. The Legislative

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Auditing Committee may inquire into the reasons or justifications for failure of the agency head to correct the deficiencies reported in internal audits that are also reported by the Auditor General and shall take appropriate action.

(h)(g) The inspector general shall monitor the implementation of the state agency's response to any report on the state agency issued by the Auditor General or by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. No later than 6 months after the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability publishes a report on the state agency, the inspector general shall provide a written response to the agency head on the status of corrective actions taken. The Inspector General shall file a copy of such response with the Legislative Auditing Committee.

(i)(h) The inspector general shall develop long-term and annual audit plans based on the findings of periodic risk assessments. The plan, where appropriate, should include postaudit samplings of payments and accounts. The plan shall show the individual audits to be conducted during each year and related resources to be devoted to the respective audits. The Chief Financial Officer, to assist in fulfilling the responsibilities for examining, auditing, and settling accounts, claims, and demands pursuant to s. 17.03(1), and examining, auditing, adjusting, and settling accounts pursuant to s. 17.04, may utilize audits performed by the inspectors general and internal auditors. For state agencies under the Governor, the audit plans shall be submitted to the Governor's Chief Inspector General. The plan shall be submitted to the

agency head for approval. A copy of the approved plan shall be 2 submitted to the Auditor General. 3 (7) Investigative work papers and reports held by an 4 inspector general in connection with an investigation 5 conducted under this section are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and 6 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the 7 investigation is complete or ceases to be active to the extent 8 that such work papers and reports do not include information that has otherwise been made confidential and exempt from 9 10 disclosure under s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. An investigation is active while the 11 12 agency inspector general is proceeding with reasonable 13 dispatch and has a reasonable, good-faith belief that the investigation may lead to the filing of an administrative, 14 civil, or criminal proceeding. Upon request, a person who is 15 the subject of a complaint shall be provided with a copy of 16 the written complaint and supporting documents, if any, which 18 contain the specific allegations made against him or her and extrinsic evidence received as of the date of the request, 19 except for information that has otherwise been made 2.0 21 confidential and exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. However, when the 2.2 23 inspector general or a member of the staff receives from an individual a complaint or information as described in s. 2.4 112.3187(5), the name or identity of the individual may not be 2.5 disclosed without the written consent of the individual unless 26 2.7 the inspector general determines that such disclosure is 2.8 unavoidable during the course of the investigation. (10) Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) and subsection 29 (7) are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in 30 accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October

1	2, 2011, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through
2	reenactment by the Legislature.
3	Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
4	necessity that audit work papers and reports and investigative
5	work papers and reports held by the inspector general of a
6	state agency in connection with an ongoing audit or
7	investigation be made confidential and exempt from disclosure
8	under section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and section 24(a),
9	Article I of the State Constitution except as otherwise
10	provided by law. The Legislature further finds that the public
11	policy provided by the changes to section 20.055, Florida
12	Statutes, will be best served if the confidentiality is
13	maintained of audit work papers and reports and investigative
14	work papers and reports of an inspector general.
15	Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
16	law.
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19	SENATE SUMMARY
20	for audit work papers and reports and investigative work papers and reports. Provides for future legislative review and repeal. Provides a statement of public
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