

FORMATTING NOTE:

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (({- text here -})) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

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INITIATIVE 658

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 658 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

AN ACT Relating to the Office of State Inspector General; amending RCW 43.17.020; reenacting and amending RCW 43.17.010; adding a new section to Chapter 41.06 RCW; and adding a new Chapter to Title 43 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 1. It is the purpose of this chapter to create an agency to investigate complaints of malfeasance or abuse by government agencies or employees, and to investigate and enforce fair and ethical practices by licensees doing business here.

The Office of State Inspector General shall work with State Auditors to review complaints thoroughly and conscientiously, and may enlist the assistance of volunteers from the public sector, to serve as interns in preliminary inquiries, to ease the investigative caseload.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 2. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Director" means the director of the Office of State Inspector General.

(2) "Office" means the Office of State Inspector General.

(3) "fair and ethical practices" means that which does no cheat nor injure others.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 3. There is created a department of state government to be known as the Office of State Inspector General. The Office is vested with all powers and duties as may be authorized by law.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec 4. The executive head and appointing authority of the Office is the Director. The Director shall be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, and will be

limited to one five-year term in office. The Director shall be paid a salary in accordance with RCW 43.03.040. If a vacancy occurs in the position while the Senate is not in session, the Governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the Senate.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec 5. It is the intent of the Legislature wherever possible to place the internal affairs of the Office under the control of the Director in order that the Director may institute therein the flexible, alert and intelligent management of its business. Exercising supervisory powers over the Office, the Director may create such administrative structures, and employ such assistants and personnel, as are deemed necessary for the general administration of the Office. This employment shall be in accordance with State civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, except as otherwise provided. The Director shall be responsible for the official acts of the officers and employees of the Office. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Office of State Inspector General shall be the people's advocate in guarding and maintaining their welfare and happiness, and care shall be taken to employ only those individuals of the highest caliber and motivation. Any unfounded abuse, neglect of duty, or betrayal of the public trust by any employee of the Office will be grounds for immediate dismissal, and/or criminal prosecution.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 6. It being likely and conceivable that frivolous, deceitful or malicious complaints might be filed by petty individuals merely for the sake of harassment or obstruction, the Office of State Inspector General shall be authorized to require a Bond from suspect complainants to proceed with an investigation, and/or to ask that they submit to polygraph examinations on their allegations of wrongdoing. Obviously frivolous complaints filed shall be prosecutable under harassment statutes.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The Director shall appoint a deputy director, an office personnel director, and such assistant directors as may be needed to administer the Office. The deputy director shall have charge and general supervision of the Office in the absence or disability of the Director and, in case of vacancy in the office of Director, shall continue in charge of the Office until a successor is appointed and qualified, or until the Governor appoints an acting Director.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec 8. The Director may appoint such advisory committees or councils as may be required by federal legislation as a condition to the receipt of federal funds by the Office. The Director may also appoint state-wide committees or councils on such subject matters as come within the Office's responsibilities. State-wide committees and councils shall have representation from major political parties, and have substantial consumer representation. Members of such advisory committees or councils may be paid their travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec 9. A new section is added to chapter 41.06 RCW as follows: The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the Office of State Inspector General to the Director, the Director's personal secretary, the deputy director, all division directors and assistant directors, and one confidential secretary for each of these officers.

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 10. RCW 43.17.010 and 1993 sp.s. c 2 s 16, 1993 c 472 s 17, and 1993 c 280 s 18 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows: There shall be departments of the state government which shall be known as, "...{+ and (16) the Office of State Inspector General +}".

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec. 11. RCW 43.17.020 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 s 2 are each amended to read as follows: There shall be a chief executive officer of each department to be known as: "...{+ and (16) the Director of the Office of State Inspector General +}".

{+ NEW SECTION +}. Sec 12. Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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