

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 305

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Office of
Inspector General Oversight Council.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. TOWNS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish
an Office of Inspector General Oversight Council.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Office of Inspector
5 General Oversight Council Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GEN-**
7 **ERAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL.**

8 The Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–
9 452; 5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following new section:

1 **“SEC. 13. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT**
2 **COUNCIL.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
4 as an independent establishment in the executive branch
5 a council to be known as the ‘Office of Inspector General
6 Oversight Council’ (in this section referred to as the
7 ‘Council’), the purpose of which shall be to oversee and
8 review the actions and activities of the Offices of Inspector
9 General of establishments and designated Federal entities.

10 “(b) COMPOSITION; QUALIFICATIONS.—(1) The
11 Council shall be composed of seven members (in this sec-
12 tion referred to as the ‘Members’), who shall be appointed
13 as follows:

14 “(A) One member shall be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

16 “(B) One member shall be appointed by the mi-
17 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

18 “(C) One member shall be appointed by the
19 majority leader of the Senate.

20 “(D) One member shall be appointed by the mi-
21 nority leader of the Senate.

22 “(E) Three members shall be selected jointly by
23 the Inspectors General of establishments and des-
24 ignated Federal entities.

25 “(2) Members shall be appointed from among—

1 “(A) Inspectors General of establishments and
2 designated Federal entities; and

3 “(B) private United States citizens.

4 “(c) APPOINTMENT; STAGGERING OF TERMS.—(1)
5 Except as provided in paragraph (4), Members shall be
6 appointed for a term of 3 years. Any vacancy in the Coun-
7 cil shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-
8 pointment.

9 “(2) Members shall be limited to service of 2 terms
10 on the Council.

11 “(3) All appointments to the Council shall be made
12 not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
13 of the Office of Inspector General Oversight Council Act
14 of 1999.

15 “(4) Members initially appointed to the Council
16 under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(1)
17 shall be so appointed for a term of two years.

18 “(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall be as
19 follows:

20 “(1) To hear and investigate complaints with
21 respect to decisions and actions of Offices of Inspec-
22 tor General regarding fraud and abuse in programs
23 and operations of establishments and other des-
24 ignated Federal entities and other activities prohib-
25 ited by law, rule, or regulation.

1 “(2) To issue recommendations and advice re-
2 garding such complaints.

3 “(3) In hearing and investigating such com-
4 plaints, to provide a means by which information re-
5 garding fraud and abuse, violations of law, rules, or
6 regulations, mismanagement, waste of funds, abuse
7 of authority, or danger to public health or safety
8 may be disclosed without fear of retaliation or dis-
9 closure of the identity of the person bringing the
10 complaint.

11 “(e) PAY OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Council
12 shall not be paid by reason of their work on the Council.

13 “(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
14 Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
15 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
16 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
17 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
18 regular places of business in the performance of services
19 for the Council.

20 “(g) INFORMATION.—The Council may secure di-
21 rectly from any department or agency of the United States
22 information that the Council considers necessary to enable
23 the Council to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

24 “(h) COOPERATION FROM GOVERNMENT OFFI-
25 CIALS.—In carrying out its duties, any United States Gov-

1 ernment official responsible for providing the Council with
2 information necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibil-
3 ities shall cooperate fully with the Council.

4 “(i) STAFF.—The Council may appoint a staff direc-
5 tor and such additional personnel as may be necessary to
6 enable the Council to perform its duties. The Council may
7 fix the pay of the staff director and other personnel, except
8 that the rate of pay fixed under this paragraph for the
9 staff director may not exceed the rate payable for level
10 IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title
11 5, United States Code, and the rate of pay for other per-
12 sonnel may not exceed the maximum rate payable for
13 grade GS–15 of the General Schedule.

14 “(j) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
15 TENT SERVICES.—The Council may procure temporary
16 and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5,
17 United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not
18 exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of pay pay-
19 able for level V of the Executive Schedule under section
20 5316 of such title.

21 “(k) POSTAL AND PRINTING SERVICES.—The Coun-
22 cil may use the United States mails and obtain printing
23 and binding services in the same manner and under the
24 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
25 United States.

1 “(l) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Council
2 may procure temporary and intermittent services under
3 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

4 “(m) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Council
5 shall—

6 “(1) notify the Committee on Government Re-
7 form and Oversight of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the
9 Senate regarding activities and recommendations of
10 the Council; and

11 “(2) notify the Committee on National Security
12 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
13 on Armed Services of the Senate regarding activities
14 and recommendations of the Council with respect to
15 the Department of Defense.”.

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