

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes.

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 **["**_____ Act
5 of _____**"]**.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(d) of the Inspector Gen-
8 eral Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)(C)—

1 (A) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as
2 subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and adjust-
3 ing the margins accordingly;

4 (B) by striking “Ombudsman who shall
5 educate agency employees—” and inserting the
6 following: “Coordinator who shall—

7 “(i) educate agency employees—”;

8 (C) in subclause (I), as so redesignated, by
9 striking “on retaliation” and inserting “against
10 retaliation”;

11 (D) in subclause (II), as so redesignated,
12 by striking the period at the end and inserting
13 the following: “, including—

14 “(aa) the means by which em-
15 ployees may seek review of any allega-
16 tion of reprisal, including the roles of
17 the Office of the Inspector General,
18 the Office of Special Counsel, the
19 Merit Systems Protection Board, and
20 any other relevant entities; and

21 “(bb) general information about
22 the timeliness of such cases, the avail-
23 ability of any alternative dispute
24 mechanisms, and avenues for poten-
25 tial relief.”; and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(ii) assist the Inspector General in pro-
3 moting the timely and appropriate handling and
4 consideration of protected disclosures and alle-
5 gations of reprisal, to the extent practicable, by
6 the Inspector General; and

7 “(iii) assist the Inspector General in facili-
8 tating communication and coordination with the
9 Special Counsel, the Council of the Inspectors
10 General on Integrity and Efficiency, the agency,
11 Congress, and any other relevant entity regard-
12 ing the timely and appropriate handling and
13 consideration of protected disclosures, allega-
14 tions of reprisal, and general matters regarding
15 the implementation and administration of whis-
16 tleblower protection laws, rules, and regula-
17 tions.”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Ombuds-
19 man” and inserting “Coordinator”;

20 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
21 graph (4); and

22 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(3) The Whistleblower Protection Coordinator
25 shall have direct access to the Inspector General as

1 needed to accomplish the requirements of this sub-
2 section.”.

3 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIGIE.—Section 11(c) of
4 the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING
7 TO WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.—The Council
8 shall—

9 “(A) facilitate the work of the Whistle-
10 blower Protection Coordinators designated
11 under section 3(d)(C); and

12 “(B) in consultation with the Office of
13 Special Counsel and Whistleblower Protection
14 Coordinators from the member offices of the In-
15 spector General, develop best practices for co-
16 ordination and communication in promoting the
17 timely and appropriate handling and consider-
18 ation of protected disclosures, allegations of re-
19 prisal, and general matters regarding the imple-
20 mentation and administration of whistleblower
21 protection laws, in accordance with Federal
22 law.”.

23 (c) REPORTING.—Section 5 of the Inspector General
24 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph
2 (20) to read as follows:

3 “(20)(A) a detailed description of any instance
4 of whistleblower retaliation, including information
5 about the official found to have engaged in retalia-
6 tion; and

7 “(B) what, if any, consequences the establish-
8 ment actually imposed to hold the official described
9 in subparagraph (A) accountable;”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking
12 “and” at the end;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
14 paragraph (5); and

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
16 following:

17 “(4) whether the establishment entered into a
18 settlement agreement with the official described in
19 subsection (a)(20)(A), which shall be reported re-
20 gardless of any confidentiality agreement relating to
21 the settlement agreement; and”.

22 (d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—
23 Section 735(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
24 ed, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking
25 “Ombudsman” and inserting “Coordinator”.

1 (e) REPEAL OF SUNSET.—Subsection (c) of section
2 117 of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of
3 2012 (Public Law 112–199; 126 Stat. 1475) is repealed.