

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3664

To enhance the independence of Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2020

Mr. MURPHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To enhance the independence of Inspectors General, 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 “Inspectors General  
5 Independence Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT**  
7 **OF 1978.**

8 (a) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—The Inspector General  
9 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

10 (1) in section 3(b), by inserting after the first  
11 sentence the following: “An Inspector General may

1       only be removed by the President before the expira-  
2       tion of the term of the Inspector General for perma-  
3       nent incapacity, inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfea-  
4       sance, or conviction of a felony or conduct involving  
5       moral turpitude.”; and

6               (2) in section 8(G)(e), by adding at the end the  
7       following:

8       “(3) An Inspector General may only be removed by  
9       the head of a designated Federal entity before the expira-  
10      tion of the term of the Inspector General for permanent  
11      incapacity, inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or  
12      conviction of a felony or conduct involving moral turpi-  
13      tude.”.

14       (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TERMS OF OFFICE.—The  
15      Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amend-  
16      ed—

17               (1) in section 3, by adding at the end the fol-  
18      lowing:

19       “(h)(1) The term of office of each Inspector General  
20      shall be 7 years. An individual may serve for more than  
21      1 term in such office. Any individual appointed and con-  
22      firmed to fill a vacancy in such position, occurring before  
23      the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor  
24      was appointed, shall be appointed and confirmed for a full  
25      7-year term.

1           “(2) An individual may continue to serve as Inspector  
2 General beyond the expiration of the term for which the  
3 individual is appointed until a successor is appointed and  
4 confirmed, except that such individual may not continue  
5 to serve for more than 1 year after the date on which the  
6 term would otherwise expire under paragraph (1).”; and

7                   (2) in section 8G(c)—

8                           (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”; and

9                           (B) by adding at the end the following:

10           “(2) The term of office of each Inspector General  
11 shall be 7 years. An individual may serve for more than  
12 1 term in such office. Any individual appointed to fill a  
13 vacancy in such position, occurring before the expiration  
14 of the term for which his or her predecessor was ap-  
15 pointed, shall be appointed for a full 7-year term.”.

16           (c) APPLICATION.—

17                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
18 this section shall apply to any Inspector General of  
19 an establishment or a designated Federal entity, as  
20 defined in sections 12 and 8G(a) of the Inspector  
21 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), respectively,  
22 appointed before, on, or after the date of enactment  
23 of this Act.

24                   (2) TERM.—The term of office of an Inspector  
25 General described in paragraph (1) serving on the

- 1 date of enactment of this Act is deemed to begin on
- 2 such date of enactment.

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