

Securing Inspector General Independence (SIGI) Act of 2021 – Section by Section

Section 1: Short Title

Section 2: Removal or Transfer of Inspectors General; Placement on Non-Duty Status

- Clarifies the 30-day reporting requirement before an Inspector General (IG) is removed by requiring the President or agency head, where applicable, to provide the “substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons” before the removal of an IG.
- Prohibits an IG from being placed on administrative leave (“non-duty status”) during this 30-day period unless the IG meets one of the following requirements within the Administrative Leave Act ([5 U.S.C. § 6329b\(b\)\(2\)\(A\)\(i-iv\)](#)): i) poses a threat to themselves or others; ii) could destroy evidence relevant to an investigation; iii) poses a threat to Government property; or iv) otherwise jeopardizes legitimate Government interests. Requires a related explanation to Congress.
- Requires the President or agency head, where applicable, to provide 15 days’ notice to Congress when placing an IG on administrative leave unless the same Administrative Leave Act requirements are met and explained, in which case notice can be concurrent.

Section 3: Vacancy in Position of Inspector General

- For Presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed IG positions, requires that acting IGs be senior officials from within an Office of Inspector General (OIG) and, while an IG is on administrative leave, that the acting IG come from within that particular OIG.
- Requires that current acting IGs meet the new requirements or vacate the position within 30 days.

Section 4: Office of Inspector General Whistleblower Complaints

- Requires the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) to establish best practices, and requires IG Offices to provide annual training to all their employees, regarding the whistleblower rights of OIG employees.