

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5219

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the detection and prevention of inappropriate conduct in the Federal judiciary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the detection and prevention of inappropriate conduct in the Federal judiciary.

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 “Judicial Transparency
5 and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.**

7 (a) CREATION AND DUTIES.—Part III of title 28,
8 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

1 **“CHAPTER 60—INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR**
2 **THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

- “1021. Establishment.
- “1022. Appointment of Inspector General.
- “1023. Duties.
- “1024. Powers.
- “1025. Reports.
- “1026. Whistleblower protection.

3 **“§ 1021. Establishment**

4 “There is established for the judicial branch of the
5 Government the Office of Inspector General for the Judi-
6 cial Branch (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the
7 ‘Office’).

8 **“§ 1022. Appointment of Inspector General**

9 “The head of the Office shall be the Inspector Gen-
10 eral, who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the
11 United States after consultation with the majority and mi-
12 nority leaders of the Senate and the Speaker and minority
13 leader of the House of Representatives.

14 **“§ 1023. Duties**

15 “With respect to the Judicial Branch, other than the
16 United States Supreme Court, the Office shall—

17 “(1) conduct investigations of matters per-
18 taining to the Judicial Branch, including possible
19 misconduct in office of judges and proceedings under
20 chapter 16 of this title, that may require oversight
21 or other action within the Judicial Branch or by
22 Congress;

1 “(2) conduct and supervise audits and inves-
2 tigations;

3 “(3) prevent and detect waste, fraud, and
4 abuse; and

5 “(4) recommend changes in laws or regulations
6 governing the Judicial Branch.

7 **“§ 1024. Powers**

8 “In carrying out the duties of the Office, the Inspec-
9 tor General shall have the power—

10 “(1) to make investigations and reports;

11 “(2) to obtain information or assistance from
12 any Federal, State, or local governmental agency, or
13 other entity, or unit thereof, including all informa-
14 tion kept in the course of business by the Judicial
15 Conference of the United States, the judicial coun-
16 cils of circuits, the Administrative Office of the
17 United States Courts, and the United States Sen-
18 tencing Commission;

19 “(3) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the
20 attendance and testimony of such witnesses, and the
21 production of such books, records, correspondence
22 memoranda, papers, and documents, which sub-
23 poena, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey,
24 shall be enforceable by civil action;

1 “(4) to administer to or take from any person
2 an oath, affirmation, or affidavit;

3 “(5) to employ such officers and employees,
4 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States
5 Code, governing appointments in the competitive
6 service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
7 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to
8 classification and General Schedule pay rates;

9 “(6) to obtain services as authorized by section
10 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates
11 not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for
12 grade GS-18 of the General Schedule by section
13 5332 of title 5, United States Code; and

14 “(7) to the extent and in such amounts as may
15 be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, to
16 enter into contracts and other arrangements for au-
17 dits, studies, analyses, and other services with public
18 agencies and with private persons, and to make such
19 payments as may be necessary to carry out the du-
20 ties of the Office.

21 **“§ 1025. Reports**

22 “(a) WHEN TO BE MADE.—The Inspector General
23 shall—

1 “(1) make an annual report to the Chief Jus-
2 tice and to Congress relating to the activities of the
3 Office; and

4 “(2) make prompt reports to the Chief Justice
5 and to Congress on matters that may require action
6 by them.

7 “(b) SENSITIVE MATTER.—If a report contains sen-
8 sitive matter, the Inspector General may so indicate and
9 Congress may receive that report in closed session.

10 “(c) DUTY TO INFORM ATTORNEY GENERAL.—In
11 carrying out the duties of the Office, the Inspector General
12 shall report expeditiously to the Attorney General when-
13 ever the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to be-
14 lieve there has been a violation of Federal criminal law.

15 **“§ 1026. Whistleblower protection**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—No officer, employee, agent, con-
17 tractor or subcontractor in the Judicial Branch may dis-
18 charge, demote, threaten, suspend, harass or in any other
19 manner discriminate against an employee in the terms and
20 conditions of employment because of any lawful act done
21 by the employee to provide information, cause information
22 to be provided, or otherwise assist in an investigation re-
23 garding any possible violation of Federal law or regulation,
24 or misconduct, by a judge or any other employee in the

1 Judicial Branch, which may assist the Inspector General
2 in the performance of duties under this chapter.

3 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—An employee injured by a viola-
4 tion of subsection (a) may, in a civil action, obtain appro-
5 priate relief.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
7 for part III of title 28, United States Code, is amended
8 by adding at the end the following new item:

“60. Inspector General for the Judicial Branch.”.

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