

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 4193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an office of the inspector general at the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Sec. 12.301. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. (a) The office of the inspector general is an office within the commission.

(b) The commission shall appoint an inspector general to serve as director of the office of the inspector general. The inspector general serves until removed by the commission.

(c) The commission shall provide staff, administrative resources, and support services as necessary to the office of the inspector general.

Sec. 12.302. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The office of the inspector general is responsible for the investigation, prevention, and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse at the commission and entities over which the commission exercises oversight, including the independent organization certified under Section 39.151 for the ERCOT power region.

(b) The office of the inspector general has all of the powers necessary or appropriate to carry out the office's responsibilities and functions under this subchapter and other law.

1 (c) The inspection or disclosure of a record, document, or
2 file for purposes of an investigation under this subchapter is not a
3 voluntary disclosure under Section 552.007, Government Code. A
4 record, document, or file made available to the office for purposes
5 of an investigation under this subchapter is not subject to public
6 disclosure by the office.

7 Sec. 12.303. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES. The office
8 of the inspector general may refer matters for further civil and
9 administrative action to appropriate administrative agencies,
10 including the attorney general.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.