

Office of Inspector General

Minn. Stat. § 15E.20, subd. 1:

Minimum qualifications.

(a) To be eligible to be appointed as inspector general, a candidate must:

(1) have a bachelor's or higher degree in criminal justice, public administration, law, or a related field;

(2) have at least ten years of professional experience in auditing, investigations, law enforcement, or a related area;

(3) hold a professional certificate from the Association of Inspectors General, including Certified Inspector General or Certified Inspector General Investigator; and

(4) demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the mission of public service and provide a public disclosure of prior professional opinions, positions, or actions that may influence the candidate's approach to the role.

(b) Current or former commissioners, agency heads, deputy commissioners or agency heads, governors, or legislators, and persons elected to an office other than governor or legislator, are not eligible to serve as inspector general within five years of their service in those roles.

Minn. Stat. § 15E.25, subd. 1:

Authorized powers and responsibilities.

The inspector general is authorized and responsible to:

(1) establish standards and best practices concerning the operation, investigations, and fraud prevention processes of agency inspectors general, and periodically review agency compliance with these standards and best practices. Agencies must follow standards developed by the inspector general under this clause;

(2) facilitate information sharing between agencies, including coordinating investigations that involve multiple agencies and designating a lead agency, coordinating and assisting agency identification and review of suspicious

documents and data anomalies, and alerting other agencies when a person suspected of committing fraud against any agency program may also be participating in, or applying to participate in, a program administered by another agency;

(3) evaluate the performance of agency inspector general offices and recommend improvements, as needed, to the agency's head and inspector general. An agency head that receives a recommendation under this clause must report annually to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the agency regarding the agency's implementation of the inspector general's recommendations until the inspector general notifies the agency head and the chairs and ranking members that the recommendation was resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(4) conduct inspections, evaluations, and investigations of agencies and programs, with a focus on recipients of public funds and publicly funded services, to: (i) identify fraud and misuse; (ii) make recommendations for changes to programs to prevent fraud and misuse; and (iii) protect the integrity of the use of public funds, data, and systems;

(5) refer matters for civil, criminal, or administrative action to the Office of the Inspector General Anti-Fraud and Waste Bureau under section 15E.27, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the attorney general's office, the United States Department of Justice for federal programs, or other appropriate authorities;

(6) recommend legislative or policy changes to improve program efficiency and effectiveness;

(7) publish reports on completion of an investigation summarizing findings, recommendations, and outcomes of the inspector general's activities;

(8) investigate any private entity or local unit of government administering a state program, or any private recipient of state funds or services, to ensure the proper use of state funds and compliance with all other laws and requirements applicable to funds or services provided by the state;

(9) submit an annual report summarizing the work of the office to the Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission and make the report publicly available by posting the report on the inspector general's website;

(10) alert relevant agency heads when the inspector general has a reasonable suspicion that fraud or misuse is being committed that constitutes a credible

allegation, whether or not the inspector general is conducting an investigation, as provided in subdivision 3; and

(11) establish and maintain a current exclusion list in a format readily accessible to agencies that identifies each program and individual for which the inspector general has obtained a court order to freeze or cease distribution of funds or made a recommendation under clause (10) to freeze or cease distribution of funds.

Vote Totals

S. F. No. 856, A bill for an act relating to state government; creating the Office of the Inspector General; creating an advisory committee; requiring reports; transferring certain agency duties; placing limits and prohibiting certain programs from receiving public funds; making conforming and technical changes; providing for interagency

71ST DAY]

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

6607

agreements; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 3.971, by adding a subdivision; 13.82, subdivision 1; 15A.0815, subdivision 2; 127A.21, subdivisions 1a, 5, by adding subdivisions; 142A.03, by adding a subdivision; 142A.12, subdivision 5; 144.05, by adding a subdivision; 181.932, subdivision 1; 245.095, subdivision 5; 256.01, by adding a subdivision; 609.456, subdivision 2; 626.84, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 15D; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 13.321, subdivision 12; 127A.21, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

The bill was read for the third time, as amended, and placed upon its final passage.

The question was taken on the passage of the bill and the roll was called. There were 127 yeas and 5 nays as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Acomb	Davis	Hanson, J.	Kozlowski	Norris	Skraha
Agbaje	Dippel	Harder	Koznick	Novotny	Smith
Allen	Doseeth	Heintzeman	Kresha	O'Driscoll	Stephenson
Ahendorf	Dunn	Hicks	Lawrence	Olson	Stier
Anderson, P. E.	Elkins	Hill	Lee, F.	Pérez-Vega	Swedzinski
Anderson, P. H.	Engen	Hollins	Lee, X.	Perryman	Tabke
Backer	Falconer	Howard	Liebling	Pinto	Torkelson
Bahner	Feist	Hudson	Lillie	Pursell	Van Binsbergen
Bakeberg	Finke	Huot	Long	Quam	Vinig
Baker	Fischer	Hussein	Luger-Nikolai	Rarick	Warwas
Bennett	Fogelman	Igo	Mahamoud	Rehm	West
Berg	Franson	Jacob	McDonald	Rehauer	Wiener
Bierman	Frazier	Johnson, P.	Mekeland	Repinski	Witte
Bliss	Frederick	Johnson, W.	Moller	Reyer	Wolgamott
Buck	Freberg	Jones	Momanyi-Hitsley	Roach	Youakim
Burkel	Gander	Jordan	Mueller	Robbins	Zeleznikar
Carroll	Gillman	Joy	Murphy	Rymer	Spk. Demuth
Cha	Gordon	Keeler	Myers	Schomacker	
Claudy	Gottfried	Klevorn	Nadeau	Schultz	
Coulter	Greene	Knauden	Nash	Schwartz	
Curran	Greenman	Koegel	Nelson	Scott	
Dauids	Hansen, R.	Kotyza-Witthuhn	Niska	Sexton	

Those who voted in the negative were:

Kraft	Lee, K.	Sencer-Mura	Vang	Xiong
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The bill was passed, as amended, and its title agreed to.

CONCURRENCE AND REPASSAGE

Senator Gustafson moved that the Senate concur in the amendments by the House to S.F. No. 856 and that the bill be placed on its repassage as amended. The motion prevailed.

S.F. No. 856: A bill for an act relating to state government; creating the Office of the Inspector General; creating an advisory commission; making conforming and technical changes; providing

72ND DAY]

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

10203

for interagency agreements; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 3.971, by adding a subdivision; 15A.0815, subdivision 2; 43A.32, by adding a subdivision; 127A.21, subdivision 1a, by adding subdivisions; 142A.03, by adding a subdivision; 142A.12, subdivision 5; 144.05, by adding a subdivision; 245.095, subdivision 5; 256.01, by adding a subdivision; 609.456, subdivision 2; Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, sections 10A.01, subdivision 35; 13.82, subdivision 1; 127A.21, subdivision 5; 626.84, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 15E; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 13.321, subdivision 12; 127A.21, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

S.F. No. 856 was read the third time, as amended by the House, and placed on its repassage.

Pursuant to Rule 41.2, Senator Hemmingsen-Jaeger moved that she be excused from voting on all questions pertaining to S.F. No. 856. The motion prevailed.

The question was taken on the repassage of S.F. No. 856, as amended by the House.

The roll was called, and there were yeas 66 and nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Abeler	Farnsworth	Johnson	Mathews	Rasmusson
Bahr	Fateh	Johnson Stewart	Maye Quade	Rest
Boldon	Frentz	Klein	McEwen	Seeberger
Carlson	Green	Koran	Miller	Utke
Champion	Gruenhagen	Krean	Mohamed	Weber
Clark	Gustafson	Kunesh	Murphy	Wesenberg
Coleman	Hauschild	Kupec	Nelson	Westlin
Cwodzinski	Hawj	Lang	Oumou Verbeten	Westrom
Dahms	Heintzeman	Latz	Pappas	Wikland
Dibble	Hoffman	Lieske	Pha	Xiong
Dornink	Holmstrom	Limmer	Port	
Drabheim	Housley	Lucero	Pratt	
Drazkowski	Howe	Mann	Putnam	
Duckworth	Jasinski	Marty	Rarick	

Pursuant to Rule 40, Senator Kunesh cast the affirmative vote on behalf of the following Senators: Carlson, Mohamed, Port, Rest, and Xiong.

So the bill, as amended, was repassed and its title was agreed to.

Governor's Signature Page

Presented to the governor May 12, 2026

Signed by the governor May 14, 2026, 9:59 a.m.

Office of Inspector General cont'd

Minn. Stat. § 15E.27, subd. 1:

LAW ENFORCEMENT POWERS.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2028, the inspector general may appoint peace officers, as defined in section 626.84, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), and establish a law enforcement agency, as defined in section 626.84, subdivision 1, paragraph (f), known as the Office of the Inspector General Anti-Fraud and Waste Bureau, to conduct statewide investigations, and to make statewide arrests under sections 629.30 and 629.34 for offenses that are within the bureau's jurisdiction.

Minn. Stat. § 15E.45:

RESOURCES.

Subdivision 1. **Staff.** (a) The inspector general may hire and manage staff as necessary and in accordance with chapter 43A. The inspector general must employ and manage at least one attorney to serve as legal counsel for the office and to advise the inspector general on all legal matters relating to the office. Except for the inspector general, the staff in the Office of the Inspector General shall serve in the classified civil service. Except as provided in paragraph (b), compensation for employees of the inspector general in the classified service who are represented by an exclusive representative shall be governed by a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the commissioner of management and budget and the exclusive representative. Compensation for employees of the inspector general in the classified service who are not represented by an exclusive representative shall be as provided in the nonrepresented employees compensation plan under section 43A.18, subdivision 2, or by the managerial plan under section 43A.18, subdivision 3, depending on the employee's job classification.

(b) Section 15.039, subdivision 7, applies to employees transferred into the Office of the Inspector General from other offices of inspectors general within the first year following enactment of chapter 15E.

Subd. 2. **Contracting.** The inspector general may contract with external experts to support the work of the office, subject to section 16C.08.

Minn. Stat. § 15E.55:

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND REVIEW.

(a) The inspector general's activities must adhere to professional standards as promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General or other recognized bodies.

(b) The governor must contract with the Association of Inspectors General or another recognized body for an external quality assurance review of the Office of the Inspector General after years two and four of each inspector general term.