

“(3) Congress, as a co-equal branch of Government, is empowered by the Constitution to serve as a check on the executive branch; in that capacity, it has a ‘need to know’ of allegations of wrongdoing within the executive branch, including allegations of wrongdoing in the Intelligence Community;

“(4) no basis in law exists for requiring prior authorization of disclosures to the intelligence committees of Congress by employees of the executive branch of classified information about wrongdoing within the Intelligence Community;

“(5) the risk of reprisal perceived by employees and contractors of the Intelligence Community for reporting serious or flagrant problems to Congress may have impaired the flow of information needed by the intelligence committees to carry out oversight responsibilities; and

“(6) to encourage such reporting, an additional procedure should be established that provides a means for such employees and contractors to report to Congress while safeguarding the classified information involved in such reporting.”

### § 8I. Special provisions concerning the Department of Homeland Security

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the last two sentences of section 3(a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall be under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to audits or investigations, or the issuance of subpoenas, that require access to sensitive information concerning—

(A) intelligence, counterintelligence, or counterterrorism matters;

(B) ongoing criminal investigations or proceedings;

(C) undercover operations;

(D) the identity of confidential sources, including protected witnesses;

(E) other matters the disclosure of which would, in the Secretary’s judgment, constitute a serious threat to the protection of any person or property authorized protection by section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, section 3056A of title 18 of such Code, or any provision of the Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note); or

(F) other matters the disclosure of which would constitute a serious threat to national security.

(2) With respect to the information described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security may prohibit the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security from carrying out or completing any audit or investigation, or from issuing any subpoena, after such Inspector General has decided to initiate, carry out, or complete such audit or investigation or to issue such subpoena, if the Secretary determines that such prohibition is necessary to prevent the disclosure of any information described in paragraph (1), to preserve the national security, or to prevent a significant impairment to the interests of the United States.

(3) If the Secretary of Homeland Security exercises any power under paragraph (1) or (2), the Secretary shall notify the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security in writing within seven days stating the reasons for such exercise. Within 30 days after receipt of any such notice, the Inspector General shall transmit to the President of the Senate, the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, and appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress the following:

(A) A copy of such notice.

(B) A written response to such notice that includes a statement regarding whether the Inspector General agrees or disagrees with such exercise, and the reasons for any disagreement.

(b) The exercise of authority by the Secretary described in paragraph (2) should not be construed as limiting the right of Congress or any committee of Congress to access any information it seeks.

(c) Subject to the conditions established in subsections (a) and (b) above, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities specified in this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security may initiate, conduct, and supervise such audits and investigations in the Department of Homeland Security as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

(d) Any report required to be transmitted by the Secretary of Homeland Security to the appropriate committees or subcommittees of Congress under section 5(d) shall be transmitted, within the seven-day period specified under such section, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities specified in this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall have oversight responsibility for the internal investigations performed by the Office of Internal Affairs of the United States Customs Service, the Office of Inspections of the United States Secret Service, the Bureau of Border Security, and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. The head of each such office or bureau shall promptly report to the Inspector General the significant activities being carried out by such office or bureau.

(f)(1) The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall designate a senior official within the Office of Inspector General, who shall be a career member of the civil service at the equivalent to the GS-15 level or a career member of the Senior Executive Service, to perform the functions described in paragraph (2).

(2) The senior official designated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) coordinate the activities of the Office of Inspector General with respect to investigations of abuses of civil rights or civil liberties;

(B) receive and review complaints and information from any source alleging abuses of civil rights and civil liberties by employees or officials of the Department and employees or officials of independent contractors or grantees of the Department;

(C) initiate investigations of alleged abuses of civil rights or civil liberties by employees or officials of the Department and employees or officials of independent contractors or grantees of the Department;

(D) ensure that personnel within the Office of Inspector General receive sufficient training to conduct effective civil rights and civil liberties investigations;

(E) consult with the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties regarding—

- (i) alleged abuses of civil rights or civil liberties; and
- (ii) any policy recommendations regarding civil rights and civil liberties that may be founded upon an investigation by the Office of Inspector General;

(F) provide the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties with information regarding the outcome of investigations of alleged abuses of civil rights and civil liberties;

(G) refer civil rights and civil liberties matters that the Inspector General decides not to investigate to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(H) ensure that the Office of the Inspector General publicizes and provides convenient public access to information regarding—

- (i) the procedure to file complaints or comments concerning civil rights and civil liberties matters; and
- (ii) the status of corrective actions taken by the Department in response to Office of the Inspector General reports; and

(I) inform the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of any weaknesses, problems, and deficiencies within the Department relating to civil rights or civil liberties.

(Pub. L. 95-452, §8I, as added Pub. L. 108-7, div. L, §104(b)(3), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 529; amended Pub. L. 108-458, title VIII, §8304, Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3868; Pub. L. 109-177, title VI, §605(e)(4), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 255.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), is Pub. L. 94-524, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2475, as amended, which enacted and amended provisions set out as notes under section 3056 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

GS-15, referred to in subsec. (f)(1), is contained in the General Schedule, which is set out under section 5332 of this title.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8I of the Inspector General Act of 1978 was renumbered section 8J by Pub. L. 108-7.

#### AMENDMENTS

- 2006—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 109-177 substituted “section 3056A of title 18” for “section 202 of title 3”.
- 2004—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 108-458 added subsec. (f).

#### REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION

Pub. L. 110-329, div. D, title V, §518(b), Sept. 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 3684, provided that: “The Inspector General shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, starting six months after the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 2008], and quarterly thereafter, a classified report containing a review of the data collected by the National Applications Office, including a description of the collection purposes and the legal authority under which the collection activities were authorized: *Provided*, That the report shall also include a listing of all data collection activities carried out on behalf of the National Applications Office by any component of the National Guard.”

#### § 8J. Rule of construction of special provisions

The special provisions under section 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, or 8H of this Act relate only to

the establishment named in such section and no inference shall be drawn from the presence or absence of a provision in any such section with respect to an establishment not named in such section or with respect to a designated Federal entity as defined under section 8G(a).

(Pub. L. 95-452, §8J, formerly §8F, as added Pub. L. 100-504, title I, §105, Oct. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 2525; renumbered §8G and amended Pub. L. 103-82, title II, §202(g)(1), (5)(B), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 889, 890; renumbered §8H, Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(b)(3)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-380; Pub. L. 105-206, title I, §1103(e)(3), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 709; renumbered §8I and amended Pub. L. 105-272, title VII, §702(b), Oct. 20, 1998, 112 Stat. 2415; renumbered §8J, Pub. L. 108-7, div. L, §104(b)(2), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 529.)

#### CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 105-206, §1103(e)(3)(A), which directed that this section be renumbered as 8H, could not be executed because of a prior renumbering by Pub. L. 104-208.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8J of the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-452, §8J, as added Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, §811(e), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2221, related to special provisions concerning the Department of Homeland Security, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108-7, div. L, §104(b)(1), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 529.

#### AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-272, §702(b)(2), which directed the amendment of this section by substituting “8E, or 8H” for “or 8E”, was executed by substituting “, 8F, or 8H” for “or 8F”, to reflect the probable intent of Congress and the amendment by Pub. L. 105-206, §1103(e)(3)(B). See below.

Pub. L. 105-206, §1103(e)(3)(C), substituted “section 8G(a)” for “section 8F(a)”.

Pub. L. 105-206, §1103(e)(3)(B), substituted “8E or 8F” for “or 8E”.

1993—Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(5)(B), substituted “8D, or 8E” for “or 8D” and “section 8F(a)” for “section 8E(a)”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 202(g)(5)(B) of Pub. L. 103-82 effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 202(i) of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date note under section 12651 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 180 days after Oct. 18, 1988, see section 113 of Pub. L. 100-504, set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note under section 5 of Pub. L. 95-452 in this Appendix.

#### [§ 8K. Repealed. Pub. L. 111-259, title IV, § 405(d), Oct. 7, 2010, 124 Stat. 2719]

Section, Pub. L. 95-452, §8K, as added Pub. L. 108-458, title I, §1078, Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3695, authorized the Director of National Intelligence to establish an Office of Inspector General of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Pub. L. 111-259, title IV, §405(d), Oct. 7, 2010, 124 Stat. 2719, provided that this section is repealed on the date that the President appoints, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the first individual to serve as Inspector General for the Intelligence Community pursuant to section 403-3h of Title 50, War and National Defense, as added by section 405(a) of Pub. L. 111-259, and such individual assumes the duties of the Inspector