

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



STEPHEN B. STREET, JR.
STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
Office of State Inspector General

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Governor Jindal Signs Historic Inspector General Legislation

BATON ROUGE – Governor Bobby Jindal has signed HB 935 into law, placing the Louisiana Inspector General's Office at the forefront of the fight to rid government of fraud and corruption.

HB 935 makes several important additions to the law enacted during the first special session of the Legislature, including granting the Inspector General law enforcement powers, and more strongly protecting the confidentiality of its investigations.

Governor Jindal said, "In the first special session, we passed historic ethics reforms that moved Louisiana from the bottom to the top of good government lists. We still have much more work to do. This law will help ensure that taxpayer money in our state is spent efficiently and effectively and not wasted, and it sends a signal to the world that we are committed to creating a New Louisiana that is the best place in the world to raise a family, get a quality education and pursue a great career."

Inspector General Stephen Street said the new law compares very favorably with other State Inspector General statutes throughout America. "With the signing of this legislation, Louisiana now has one of the strongest State Inspector General laws in the country," Street said. "It is historic, considering the previous unsuccessful attempts to make the Inspector General's office permanent and give it the tools to effectively do the

job. I am honored to hold this position at such a critical time in our state's history, and am very thankful to both the Legislature and Governor Jindal for having the resolve to get this done," Street added. Those who will benefit most are the citizens of Louisiana, who deserve government that is free from fraud and corruption."

The statute passed during the first special session made the Inspector General's Office permanent, added measures to insure independence, and gave it important investigative tools such as subpoena power and confidentiality of investigation work product. HB 935 strengthens that statute by:

- designating the Inspector General as a law enforcement agency;
- granting the Inspector General access to confidential law enforcement databases; and
- even more clearly declaring the confidentiality of Inspector General investigations, and the penalty for violating that confidentiality;

"Now that we have been given these tools, we intend to use them in a wise and responsible way to root out fraud and corruption. The truth will always be our compass," Street added.

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