

CHAPTER 2023-218

Senate Bill No. 596

An act relating to the Board of Governors of the State University System; amending s. 20.155, F.S.; granting the Office of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors additional authority to take certain actions in carrying out its duties; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 20.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.155 Board of Governors of the State University System.—

(5) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—An Office of Inspector General shall be organized using existing resources and funds to promote accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and to detect fraud and abuse within state universities.

(a) If the Board of Governors determines that a state university board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement, the office must shall conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within a state university. The office shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

(b) In exercising its authority under this section, the office may do any of the following:

1. Issue and serve subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, for the Board of Governors or universities under the jurisdiction of the State University System, to compel the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, and other data in any medium.

2. Require or authorize a person to file a written statement, under oath if required, as to all the facts and circumstances concerning the matter to be audited, examined, or investigated.

(c) In the event of noncompliance with a subpoena issued under paragraph (b), the office may petition the circuit court of the county in which the person subpoenaed resides or has his or her principal place of business for an order requiring the subpoenaed person to appear and testify and to produce documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, or other data as specified in the subpoena.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2023.