LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 957

Read first time January 11, 2012

Committee:

A BILL

1	FOR	AN	ACT	relating to child welfare; to amend sections 73-401,
2				81-8,240, 81-8,241, 81-8,244, and 81-8,245, Reissue
3				Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Office of
4				Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act; to
5				provide penalties; to change provisions relating to
6				contracts; to change and provide powers and duties for
7				the office of Public Counsel; and to repeal the original
8				sections.

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 28 of this act shall be known

- 2 and may be cited as the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child
- 3 Welfare Act.
- 4 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to:
- 5 (1) Establish a full-time program of investigation and
- 6 performance review to provide increased accountability and oversight
- 7 <u>of the Nebraska child welfare system;</u>
- 8 (2) Assist in improving operations of the department and
- 9 the Nebraska child welfare system; and
- 10 (3) Deter and identify fraud, abuse, and illegal acts.
- 11 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Office of Inspector General
- 12 of Nebraska Child Welfare Act, the definitions found in sections 4 to
- 13 16 of this act apply.
- 14 Sec. 4. Administrator means a person charged with
- 15 administration of a program, an office, or a division of the
- 16 <u>department or administration of a private agency or licensed child</u>
- 17 care facility.
- 18 Sec. 5. <u>Department means the Department of Health and</u>
- 19 <u>Human Services</u>.
- 20 Sec. 6. Director means the chief executive officer of the
- 21 <u>department</u>.
- 22 Sec. 7. <u>Inspector General means the Inspector General of</u>
- 23 Nebraska Child Welfare appointed under section 17 of this act.
- Sec. 8. <u>Licensed child care facility means a facility or</u>
- 25 program licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act or sections

- 1 <u>71-1901 to 71-1906.01.</u>
- 2 Sec. 9. Malfeasance means a wrongful act that the actor
- 3 has no legal right to do or any wrongful conduct that affects,
- 4 interrupts, or interferes with performance of an official duty.
- 5 Sec. 10. Management means supervision of subordinate
- 6 <u>employees</u>.
- 7 Sec. 11. <u>Misfeasance means the improper performance of</u>
- 8 some act that a person may lawfully do.
- 9 Sec. 12. Obstruction means hindering or preventing from
- 10 progress, stopping or delaying the progress, or making the progress
- 11 of an investigation difficult or slow.
- 12 Sec. 13. Office means the office of Inspector General of
- 13 Nebraska Child Welfare and includes the Inspector General and other
- 14 <u>employees of the office.</u>
- 15 Sec. 14. Private agency means a child welfare agency that
- 16 contracts with the department or contracts to provide services to
- 17 another child welfare agency that contracts with the department.
- 18 Sec. 15. Record means any recording, in written, audio,
- 19 electronic transmission, or computer storage form, including, but not
- 20 limited to, a draft, memorandum, note, report, computer printout,
- 21 notation, or message, and includes, but is not limited to, medical
- 22 records, mental health records, case files, clinical records,
- 23 <u>financial records</u>, and administrative records.
- 24 Sec. 16. Responsible individual means a foster parent, a
- 25 relative provider of foster care, or an employee of the department, a

1 foster home, a private agency, a licensed child care facility, or

- 2 another provider of child welfare services responsible for the care
- 3 or custody of records, documents, and files.
- 4 Sec. 17. (1) The office of Inspector General of Nebraska
- 5 Child Welfare is created within the office of Public Counsel for the
- 6 purpose of conducting investigations, audits, inspections, and other
- 7 <u>reviews of the Nebraska child welfare system. The Inspector General</u>
- 8 shall be appointed by the Public Counsel with approval from the
- 9 chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the
- 10 <u>chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the</u>
- 11 Legislature.
- 12 (2) The Inspector General shall be appointed for a term
- 13 of five years and may be reappointed. The Inspector General shall be
- 14 <u>selected without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of</u>
- 15 integrity, capability for strong leadership, and demonstrated ability
- 16 in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management
- 17 analysis, public administration, investigation, or criminal justice
- 18 administration or other closely related fields. No former or current
- 19 executive or manager of the department may be appointed Inspector
- 20 General within five years after such former or current executive's or
- 21 manager's period of service with the department. Not later than two
- 22 years after the date of appointment, the Inspector General shall
- 23 obtain certification as a Certified Inspector General by the
- 24 Association of Inspectors General, its successor, or another
- 25 <u>nationally recognized organization that provides and sponsors</u>

1 educational programs and establishes professional qualifications,

- 2 certifications, and licensing for inspectors general. During his or
- 3 her employment, the Inspector General shall not be actively involved
- 4 <u>in partisan affairs.</u>
- 5 (3) The Inspector General shall employ such investigators
- 6 and support staff as he or she deems necessary to carry out the
- 7 duties of the office within the amount available by appropriation
- 8 through the office of Public Counsel for the office of Inspector
- 9 General of Nebraska Child Welfare. The Inspector General shall be
- 10 subject to the control and supervision of the Public Counsel, except
- 11 that removal of the Inspector General shall require approval of the
- 12 <u>chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the</u>
- 13 <u>chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the</u>
- 14 Legislature.
- Sec. 18. <u>The office shall investigate:</u>
- 16 (1) Allegations or incidents of possible misconduct,
- 17 misfeasance, malfeasance, or violations of statutes or of rules or
- 18 regulations of the department by an employee of the department, a
- 19 private agency, a licensed child care facility, a foster parent, or
- 20 any other provider of child welfare services or which may provide a
- 21 basis for discipline pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act; and
- 22 (2) Death or serious injury in foster homes, private
- 23 agencies, child care facilities and programs, and other programs and
- 24 <u>facilities licensed by the department and death or serious injury in</u>
- 25 any case in which services are provided by the department to a child

1 or his or her parents or any case involving an investigation under

- 2 the Child Protection Act, which case has been open for one year or
- 3 <u>less.</u>
- 4 Any investigation conducted by the Inspector General
- 5 shall be independent of and separate from an investigation pursuant
- 6 to the Child Protection Act.
- 7 Sec. 19. (1) The office shall have access to all
- 8 information and personnel necessary to perform the duties of the
- 9 office.
- 10 (2) A full investigation conducted by the office shall
- 11 consist of retrieval of relevant records through subpoena, request,
- 12 or voluntary production, review of all relevant records, and
- interviews of all relevant persons.
- Sec. 20. (1) Complaints to the office may be made in
- 15 writing. The office shall also maintain a toll-free telephone line
- 16 for complaints. A complaint shall be evaluated to determine if it
- 17 <u>alleges possible malfeasance, misconduct, misfeasance, or violation</u>
- 18 of a statute or of rules and regulations of the department by an
- 19 employee of or a person under contract with the department, a private
- 20 agency, or a licensed child care facility, a foster parent, or any
- 21 other provider of child welfare services or alleges a basis for
- 22 <u>discipline pursuant to the Uniform Credentialing Act. All complaints</u>
- 23 shall be evaluated to determine whether a full investigation is
- 24 <u>warranted</u>.
- 25 (2) The office shall not conduct a full investigation of

- 1 <u>a complaint unless:</u>
- 2 (a) The complaint alleges malfeasance, misconduct,
- 3 misfeasance, violation of a statute or of rules and regulations of
- 4 the department, or a basis for discipline pursuant to the Uniform
- 5 Credentialing Act;
- 6 (b) The complaint is against a person within the
- 7 jurisdiction of the office; and
- 8 (c) The allegations can be independently verified through
- 9 <u>investigation</u>.
- 10 (3) The Inspector General shall determine within fourteen
- 11 days after receipt of a complaint whether it will conduct a full
- 12 <u>investigation</u>. A complaint alleging facts which, if verified, would
- 13 provide a basis for discipline under the Uniform Credentialing Act
- 14 shall be referred to the appropriate credentialing board under the
- 15 <u>act.</u>
- 16 Sec. 21. <u>All employees of the department, all foster</u>
- 17 parents, and all owners, operators, managers, supervisors, and
- 18 employees of private agencies, licensed child care facilities, and
- 19 other providers of child welfare services shall cooperate with the
- 20 office. Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- 21 (1) Provision of full access to and production of records
- 22 and information. Providing access to and producing records and
- 23 <u>information for the office is not a violation of confidentiality</u>
- 24 provisions under any law, statute, rule, or regulation if done in
- 25 good faith for purposes of an investigation under the Office of

- 1 Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act;
- 2 (2) Fair and honest disclosure of records and information
- 3 reasonably requested by the office in the course of an investigation
- 4 <u>under the act;</u>
- 5 (3) Encouraging employees to fully comply with reasonable
- 6 requests of the office in the course of an investigation under the
- 7 <u>act;</u>
- 8 (4) Prohibition of retaliation by owners, operators, or
- 9 managers against employees for providing records or information or
- 10 <u>filing or otherwise making a complaint to the office;</u>
- 11 <u>(5) Not requiring employees to gain supervisory approval</u>
- 12 prior to filing a complaint with or providing records or information
- 13 to the office;
- 14 (6) Provision of complete and truthful answers to
- 15 questions posed by the office in the course of an investigation; and
- 16 (7) Not willfully interfering with or obstructing the
- 17 investigation.
- 18 Sec. 22. <u>Failure to cooperate with an investigation by</u>
- 19 the office may result in discipline or other sanctions.
- 20 Sec. 23. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this
- 21 section, the office may issue subpoenas to require the attendance and
- 22 testimony of witnesses and the production of any pertinent records
- 23 and may administer oaths, examine witnesses, and take any evidence it
- 24 <u>deems pertinent to the conduct of an investigation under the Office</u>
- 25 of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. Any person who

1 fails to appear in response to a subpoena issued by the office or who

- 2 fails to answer any question or produce any record relevant to an
- 3 investigation conducted under the act or who knowingly gives false
- 4 testimony in relation to such investigation is guilty of a Class II
- 5 misdemeanor.
- 6 (2) The power to subpoena or to compel the production of
- 7 records shall not extend to the persons or records of a labor
- 8 organization or its representatives insofar as the person or records
- 9 of the labor organization relate to the representation of an employee
- 10 <u>subject to an investigation under the act. Union representation is</u>
- 11 not obstruction of an investigation under the act.
- 12 Sec. 24. (1) In conducting investigations, the office
- 13 shall access all relevant records through subpoena, compliance with a
- 14 request of the office, and voluntary production. The office may
- 15 request or subpoena the original of any record necessary for the
- 16 investigation from the department, a foster parent, a licensed child
- 17 care facility, or a private agency that is pertinent to an
- 18 investigation. All case files, licensing files, medical records,
- 19 financial and administrative records, and records required to be
- 20 maintained pursuant to applicable licensing rules shall be produced
- 21 for review by the office in the course of an investigation.
- 22 (2) Compliance with a request of the office includes:
- 23 <u>(a) Production of all records requested;</u>
- 24 (b) A diligent search to ensure that all appropriate
- 25 <u>records are included; and</u>

(c) A continuing obligation to immediately forward to the 1 2 office any relevant records received, located, or generated after the 3 date of the request. 4 (3) The office shall seek access in a manner that 5 respects the dignity and human rights of all persons involved, 6 maintains the integrity of the investigation, and does not 7 unnecessarily disrupt programs or services. When advance notice to a 8 foster parent or to an administrator or his or her designee is not 9 provided, the office investigator shall, upon arrival at the 10 departmental office, bureau, or division, the private agency, the licensed child care facility, or the location of another provider of 11 12 child welfare services, request that an on-site employee notify the 13 administrator or his or her designee of the investigator's arrival. 14 (4) When circumstances of an investigation require, the 15 office may make an unannounced visit to a foster home, a departmental 16 office, bureau, or division, a licensed child care facility, a private agency, or another provider to request records relevant to an 17 18 investigation. (5) A responsible individual or an administrator may be 19 20 asked to sign a statement of record integrity and security when a 21 record is secured by request as the result of a visit by the office, 22 stating:

made a diligent search of the office, bureau, division, private

agency, licensed child care facility, or other provider's location to

(a) That the responsible individual or administrator has

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1 determine that all appropriate records in existence at the time of

- 2 the request were produced;
- 3 (b) That the responsible individual or the administrator
- 4 agrees to immediately forward to the office any relevant records
- 5 received, located, or generated after the visit;
- 6 (c) The persons who have had access to the records since
- 7 they were secured; and
- 8 (d) Whether, to the best of the knowledge of the
- 9 responsible individual or the administrator, any records were removed
- 10 <u>from or added to the record since it was secured.</u>
- 11 (6) The office shall permit a responsible individual, an
- 12 <u>administrator</u>, or an employee of a departmental office, bureau, or
- 13 division, a private agency, a licensed child care facility, or
- 14 another provider to make photocopies of the original records within a
- 15 reasonable time in the presence of the office for purposes of
- 16 <u>creating a working record in a manner that assures confidentiality.</u>
- 17 (7) The office shall present to the responsible
- 18 individual or the administrator or other employee of the departmental
- 19 office, bureau, or division, private agency, licensed child care
- 20 facility, or other service provider a copy of the request, stating
- 21 <u>the date and the titles of the records received.</u>
- 22 (8) Except in investigations involving death or serious
- 23 injury, the office shall return the original record as soon as
- 24 practicable but no later than ten working days after the date of
- 25 compliance with the request. The office shall return a copy in lieu

1 of an original record whenever a copy cannot satisfactorily duplicate

- 2 information contained in the original. On the face of the record, the
- 3 office shall indicate that it is a copy and where the original can be
- 4 <u>located</u>.
- 5 (9) For death investigations, the original record shall
- 6 be returned upon completion of the investigation or any subsequent
- 7 proceedings resulting from the investigation, but the office may
- 8 retain copies or originals for the investigative file. The office
- 9 shall return a copy, in lieu of an original, whenever a copy cannot
- 10 satisfactorily duplicate information contained in the original. On
- 11 the face of the record, the office shall indicate that it is a copy
- 12 <u>and where the original can be located.</u>
- 13 (10) All investigations conducted by the office shall be
- 14 conducted in a manner designed to ensure the preservation of evidence
- 15 <u>for possible use in a criminal prosecution.</u>
- 16 Sec. 25. (1) Reports of investigations conducted by the
- 17 office shall not be distributed beyond the entity that is the subject
- 18 of the report without the consent of the Inspector General.
- 19 (2) The office shall redact confidential information
- 20 before distributing a report of an investigation.
- 21 (3) Reports of investigations conducted by the office are
- 22 not public records for purposes of sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.
- 23 <u>(4) The office may withhold the identity of sources of</u>
- 24 information to protect from retaliation any person who files a
- 25 complaint or provides information in good faith pursuant to the

1 Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act.

2 Sec. 26. (1) The Inspector General's report of an

- 3 <u>investigation shall</u> be in writing to the Public Counsel and shall
- 4 contain recommendations. The report may recommend systemic reform or
- 5 case-specific action, including a recommendation for discharge or
- 6 discipline of employees or for sanctions against a foster parent,
- 7 private agency, licensed child care facility, or other provider of
- 8 child welfare services. All recommendations to pursue discipline
- 9 shall be in writing and signed by the Inspector General. A report of
- 10 an investigation shall be presented to the director within fifteen
- 11 days after the report is presented to the Public Counsel.
- 12 (2) Any person receiving a report under this section
- 13 shall not further distribute the report or any confidential
- 14 information contained in the report, except that the Inspector
- 15 General with the knowledge of the Public Counsel and the director may
- 16 distribute the report to the juvenile court judge before whom a case
- 17 is pending involving the child or family who is the subject of the
- 18 report and to the guardian ad litem of such child, to the extent that
- 19 doing so is relevant to the child's welfare. Whenever the Inspector
- 20 General determines that distributing a report to either the court or
- 21 the guardian ad litem under this subsection is necessary, he or she
- 22 shall notify the director, foster parent, private agency, licensed
- 23 <u>child care facility, or other provider.</u>
- 24 (3) A report that identifies misfeasance, malfeasance,
- 25 misconduct, or violation of statute, rules, or regulations by an

employee of the department, a private agency, a licensed child care 1 2 facility, or another provider that is relevant to providing appropriate supervision of an employee may be shared with the 3 employer of such employee. The employer may not further distribute 4 5 the report or any confidential information contained in the report. 6 Sec. 27. (1) Within fifteen days after a report is 7 presented to the director under section 26 of this act, he or she 8 shall determine whether to accept, reject, or request in writing 9 modification of the recommendations contained in the report. The 10 Inspector General, with input from the Public Counsel, may consider the director's request for modifications but is not obligated to 11 12 accept such request. Such report shall become final upon the decision 13 of the director to accept or reject the recommendations in the report or, if the director requests modifications, within fifteen days after 14 such request or after the Inspector General incorporates such 15 16 modifications, whichever occurs earlier. 17 (2) Within fifteen days after the report is presented to the director, the report shall be presented to the foster parent, 18 private agency, licensed child care facility, or other provider of 19 20 child welfare services that is the subject of the report and with 21 persons involved in the implementation of the recommendations in the 22 report. Within forty-five days after receipt of the report, the foster parent, private agency, licensed child care facility, or other 23 24 provider may submit a written response to the office to correct any factual errors in the report. The Inspector General, with input from 25

1 the Public Counsel, shall consider all materials submitted under this

- 2 subsection to determine whether a corrected report shall be issued.
- 3 If the Inspector General determines that a corrected report is
- 4 necessary, the corrected report shall be issued within fifteen days
- 5 after receipt of the written response.
- 6 (3) If the Inspector General does not issue a corrected
- 7 report pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, or if the
- 8 corrected report does not address all issues raised in the written
- 9 response, the foster parent, private agency, licensed child care
- 10 facility, or other provider may request that its written response, or
- 11 portions of the response, be appended to the report or corrected
- 12 <u>report.</u>
- 13 (4) A report which raises issues related to credentialing
- 14 under the Uniform Credentialing Act shall be submitted to the
- 15 appropriate credentialing board under the act.
- 16 Sec. 28. On or before September 15 of each year, the
- 17 Inspector General shall provide to the Health and Human Services
- 18 Committee of the Legislature and the Governor a summary of reports
- 19 and investigations made under the Office of Inspector General of
- 20 Nebraska Child Welfare Act for the preceding year. The summaries
- 21 shall detail recommendations and the status of implementation of
- 22 recommendations and may also include recommendations to the committee
- 23 regarding issues discovered through investigation, audits,
- 24 inspections, and reviews by the office that will increase
- 25 <u>accountability and legislative oversight of the child welfare system,</u>

1 improve operations of the department and the Nebraska child welfare

- 2 system, or deter and identify fraud, abuse, and illegal acts. The
- 3 summaries shall not contain any confidential or identifying
- 4 information concerning the subjects of the reports and
- 5 investigations.
- 6 Sec. 29. Section 73-401, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 7 Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 8 73-401 Except for long-term care facilities subject to
- 9 the jurisdiction of the state long-term care ombudsman pursuant to
- 10 the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act, the contracting agency shall ensure
- 11 that any contract which a state agency enters into or renews which
- 12 agrees that a corporation, partnership, business, firm, governmental
- 13 entity, or person shall provide health and human services to
- 14 individuals or service delivery, service coordination, or case
- 15 <u>management</u> on behalf of the State of Nebraska shall contain a clause
- 16 requiring the corporation, partnership, business, firm, governmental
- 17 entity, or person to submit to the jurisdiction of the Public Counsel
- 18 under sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254 with respect to the provision of
- 19 services under the contract.
- 20 Sec. 30. Section 81-8,240, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 21 Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 22 81-8,240 As used in sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254, unless
- 23 the context otherwise requires:
- 24 (1) Administrative agency shall mean any department,
- 25 board, commission, or other governmental unit, any official, any

employee of the State of Nebraska acting or purporting to act by 1 2 reason of connection with the State of Nebraska, any corporation, 3 partnership, business, firm, governmental entity, or person who is 4 providing health and human services to individuals or service 5 delivery, service coordination, or case management under contract 6 with the State of Nebraska and who is subject to the jurisdiction of 7 the office of Public Counsel as required by section 73-401, any 8 regional behavioral health authority, any community-based behavioral health services provider that contracts with a regional behavioral 9 health authority, and any county or municipal correctional or jail 10 11 facility and employee thereof acting or purporting to act by reason 12 of connection with the county or municipal correctional or jail 13 facility; but shall not include (a) any court, (b) any member or employee of the Legislature or the Legislative Council, (c) the 14 Governor or his or her personal staff, (d) any political subdivision 15 or entity thereof except a county or municipal correctional or jail 16 17 facility or a regional behavioral health authority, (e) any instrumentality formed pursuant to an interstate compact 18 and answerable to more than one state, or (f) any entity of the federal 19 20 government; and (2) Administrative act shall include every action, rule, 21 regulation, order, omission, decision, recommendation, practice, or 22 23 procedure of an administrative agency. 24 Sec. 31. Section 81-8,241, Reissue Revised Statutes of

Nebraska, is amended to read:

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1 81-8,241 The office of Public Counsel is hereby

- 2 established to exercise the authority and perform the duties provided
- 3 by sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254 and the Office of Inspector General
- 4 of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. The Public Counsel shall be appointed
- 5 by the Legislature, with the vote of two-thirds of the members
- 6 required for approval of such appointment from nominations submitted
- 7 by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.
- 8 Sec. 32. Section 81-8,244, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 9 Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 10 81-8,244 (1)(a) The Public Counsel may select, appoint,
- 11 and compensate as he or she sees fit, within the amount available by
- 12 appropriation, such assistants and employees as he or she deems
- 13 necessary to discharge the responsibilities under sections 81-8,240
- 14 to 81-8,254. He or she shall appoint and designate one assistant to
- 15 be a deputy public counsel, one assistant to be a deputy public
- 16 counsel for corrections, one assistant to be a deputy public counsel
- 17 for institutions, and one assistant to be a deputy public counsel for
- 18 welfare services.
- 19 (b) Such deputy public counsels shall be subject to the
- 20 control and supervision of the Public Counsel.
- 21 (c) The authority of the deputy public counsel for
- 22 corrections shall extend to all facilities and parts of facilities,
- 23 offices, houses of confinement, and institutions which are operated
- 24 by the Department of Correctional Services and all county or
- 25 municipal correctional or jail facilities.

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or the Legislature.

(d) The authority of the deputy public counsel for

2 institutions shall extend to all mental health and veterans 3 institutions and facilities operated by the Department of Health and 4 Human Services and to all regional behavioral health authorities that 5 provide services and all community-based behavioral health services providers that contract with a regional behavioral health authority 6 7 to provide services, for any individual who was a patient within the 8 prior twelve months of a state-owned and state-operated regional center, and to all complaints pertaining to administrative acts of 9 10 the department, authority, or provider when those acts are concerned 11 with the rights and interests of individuals placed within those 12 institutions and facilities or receiving community-based behavioral 13 health services. 14 (e) The authority of the deputy public counsel for welfare services shall extend to all complaints pertaining to 15 administrative acts of administrative agencies when those acts are 16 concerned with the rights and interests of individuals involved in 17 the welfare services system of the State of Nebraska. 18 (f) The Public Counsel may delegate to members of the 19 20 staff any authority or duty under sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254 21 except the power of delegation and the duty of formally making

for Nebraska Child Welfare as provided in section 17 of this act. The

recommendations to administrative agencies or reports to the Governor

(2) The Public Counsel shall appoint Inspector General

1 Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare shall have the powers

- 2 and duties provided in the Inspector General for Nebraska Child
- 3 Welfare Act.
- 4 Sec. 33. Section 81-8,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 5 Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 6 81-8,245 The Public Counsel shall have the power to:
- 7 (1) Investigate, on complaint or on his or her own
- 8 motion, any administrative act of any administrative agency;
- 9 (2) Prescribe the methods by which complaints are to be
- 10 made, received, and acted upon; determine the scope and manner of
- 11 investigations to be made; and, subject to the requirements of
- 12 sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254, determine the form, frequency, and
- 13 distribution of his or her conclusions, recommendations, and
- 14 proposals;
- 15 (3) Conduct inspections of the premises, or any parts
- 16 thereof, of any administrative agency or any property owned, leased,
- 17 or operated by any administrative agency as frequently as is
- 18 necessary, in his or her opinion, to carry out duties prescribed
- 19 under sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254;
- 20 (4) Request and receive from each administrative agency,
- 21 and such agency shall provide, the assistance and information the
- 22 counsel deems necessary for the discharge of his or her
- 23 responsibilities; inspect and examine the records and documents of
- 24 all administrative agencies notwithstanding any other provision of
- 25 law; and enter and inspect premises within any administrative

- 1 agency's control;
- 2 (5) Issue a subpoena, enforceable by action in an
- 3 appropriate court, to compel any person to appear, give sworn
- 4 testimony, or produce documentary or other evidence deemed relevant
- 5 to a matter under his or her inquiry. A person thus required to
- 6 provide information shall be paid the same fees and travel allowances
- 7 and shall be accorded the same privileges and immunities as are
- 8 extended to witnesses in the district courts of this state and shall
- 9 also be entitled to have counsel present while being questioned;
- 10 (6) Undertake, participate in, or cooperate with general
- 11 studies or inquiries, whether or not related to any particular
- 12 administrative agency or any particular administrative act, if he or
- 13 she believes that they may enhance knowledge about or lead to
- 14 improvements in the functioning of administrative agencies; and
- 15 (7) Make investigations, reports, and recommendations
- 16 necessary to carry out his or her duties under the State Government
- 17 Effectiveness Act; and -
- 18 (8) Carry out his or her duties under the Office of
- 19 Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act. If any of the
- 20 provisions of sections 81-8,240 to 81-8,254 conflict with provisions
- 21 of the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act, the
- 22 provisions of such act shall control.
- 23 Sec. 34. Original sections 73-401, 81-8,240, 81-8,241,
- 24 81-8,244, and 81-8,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are
- 25 repealed.