

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Office of Public Inspector;
 3 creating s. 1001.15, F.S.; creating the Office of Public
 4 Inspector in the Office of the Commissioner of Education;
 5 providing duties to track and report incidents of fraud,
 6 waste, and abuse and occurrences of specified crimes by
 7 teachers or other school district employees; providing for
 8 availability of weekly reports; providing definitions;
 9 requiring collaboration to identify certain incidents;
 10 providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 1001.15, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 1001.15 Office of Public Inspector.--

17 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to create an
 18 office within the Office of the Commissioner of Education to
 19 track incidents of fraud, waste, and abuse that occur each year
 20 in Florida public schools, to track the occurrence of selected
 21 crimes committed by teachers, and to make that information
 22 available to the public in a simple and easy to understand
 23 format.

24 (2) There is created the Office of Public Inspector in the
 25 Office of the Commissioner of Education. The Public Inspector
 26 shall gather and report information on the following incidents
 27 as defined in this section: reported teacher abuse, molestation,
 28 and sex offenses; reported fraud in school construction and

29 overpayments for school contracts; reported cases of teachers or
30 noninstructional school district employees charged with driving
31 under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, theft,
32 robbery, or FCAT cheating; and reported district school board,
33 district school superintendent, or administrative personnel
34 impropriety. The report must be in a simple and easy to
35 understand format to be developed by the Public Inspector and
36 shall be for informational tracking purposes only. The report,
37 which must be updated on a weekly basis, must list incidents by
38 county and be made readily available to the public through an
39 Internet website maintained by the Department of Education. The
40 report must also be available to the public in printed form upon
41 written request to the Office of Public Inspector. The Public
42 Inspector shall work cooperatively with, but independently of,
43 the Inspector General and shall not duplicate or carry out the
44 responsibilities of the Inspector General as set forth in s.
45 1001.20 (4) (e).

46 (3) For purposes of gathering, tracking, and reporting the
47 incidents described in subsection (2), the following definitions
48 apply:

49 (a) "Charged" means formally charged by information or
50 indictment filed by a state attorney regardless of the final
51 disposition.

52 (b) "Driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled
53 substances" means an offense under s. 316.193 or similar law of
54 another state or territory of the United States.

55 (c) "Molestation" means an offense under s. 800.04 or
56 similar law of another state or territory of the United States.

57 (d) "Reported" means any sworn complaint filed with any
58 law enforcement agency, state attorney, public or private
59 school, district school board, or the Inspector General,
60 including any incident reported to law enforcement resulting in
61 arrest.

62 (e) "Robbery" means any robbery under s. 812.13, robbery
63 by sudden snatching under s. 812.131, carjacking under s.
64 812.133, or home-invasion robbery under s. 812.135, or any
65 similar law of another state or territory of the United States.

66 (f) "Sex offense" means any violation of s. 794.011, s.
67 794.05, s. 800.02, s. 800.03, or s. 827.071 or any felony
68 violation of chapter 847, or any similar law of another state or
69 territory of the United States.

70 (g) "Teacher abuse" means any violation under s. 827.03 or
71 s. 827.04, or any similar law of another state or territory of
72 the United States, committed by a teacher.

73 (h) "Theft" means any offense described as a theft under
74 chapter 812.

75 (4) In addition to the incidents defined in subsection
76 (3), the Public Inspector shall collaborate with the Inspector
77 General, district school boards, and other interested parties to
78 identify incidents of reported district school board, district
79 school superintendent, or administrative personnel impropriety;
80 fraud in school construction; overpayments for school contracts;
81 and FCAT cheating, for the purpose of inclusion of data
82 regarding such incidents in the Public Inspector's weekly
83 report.

HB 795

2007

84 | (5) The first weekly report required under this section
85 | shall be due for publication by January 31, 2008.

86 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.