

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4587

To amend title 5, United States Code, to require a judge on the appropriate court of appeals of the United States to appoint certain acting Inspectors General in the event of a vacancy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2025

Mr. COHEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to require a judge on the appropriate court of appeals of the United States to appoint certain acting Inspectors General in the event of a vacancy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Independent Acting
5 IGs Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. VACANCY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL POSITIONS.**

7 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 403(h) of title 5, United
8 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

2 (A) in clause (i)(I), by inserting “for at
3 least 180 of the proceeding 365 days” after
4 “that Office”; and

5 (B) in clause (ii)—

6 (i) in subclause (I), by inserting “if
7 the Principal Deputy Inspector General of
8 that Office has been serving in that posi-
9 tion for at least 180 of the proceeding 365
10 days” after “of that position”; and

11 (ii) in subclause (II), by inserting “if
12 the Deputy Inspector General of that Of-
13 fice has been serving in that position for at
14 least 180 of the proceeding 365 days”
15 after “of that position”;

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph
17 (C) and inserting the following:

18 “(C) if an Inspector General position that
19 requires appointment by the President by and
20 with the advice and consent of the Senate to be
21 filled is vacant, the first assistant to the posi-
22 tion of Inspector General shall serve as the act-
23 ing Inspector General; and

24 “(D) if the first assistant to the position of
25 Inspector General is vacant or the first assist-

1 ant to the position of Inspector General is un-
2 able or unavailable or declines to serve as act-
3 ing Inspector General, an individual shall be ap-
4 pointed in accordance with paragraph (5) to
5 serve as acting Inspector General.”; and

6 (3) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(5) The process by which an individual shall
9 be appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(D) as the
10 individual to perform the functions and duties of the
11 Inspector General temporarily in an acting capacity
12 subject to the time limitations of section 3346 of
13 title 5 (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘acting
14 Inspector General’), is as follows:

15 “(A) A judge, selected at random from the
16 court of appeals for the circuit within which the
17 headquarters of the Office of the Inspector
18 General is located by the chief judge of such
19 court of appeals, shall appoint the acting In-
20 specter General in accordance with subpara-
21 graph (D).

22 “(B) Not later than 14 days after the date
23 on which an Inspector General position becomes
24 vacant as a result of vacancy in the first assist-
25 ant position as described in paragraph (2)(D),

1 the Chairperson of the Council of the Inspectors
2 General on Integrity and Efficiency shall con-
3 vene a committee of 3 Inspectors General who
4 are members of the Chairperson of the Council
5 of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Effi-
6 ciency, and the committee shall recommend to
7 the judge selected under subparagraph (A) to
8 appoint the acting Inspector General not fewer
9 than 2 candidates to serve as the acting Inspec-
10 tor General.

11 “(C) Not later than 14 days after the date
12 on which the committee is convened under sub-
13 paragraph (B), the committee shall submit a
14 list of the recommended candidates to the judge
15 selected under subparagraph (A).

16 “(D) Not later than 14 days after the date
17 on which the judge receives the list of the rec-
18 ommended candidates, the judge shall appoint
19 the acting Inspector General.

20 “(E) The judge has the sole authority to
21 appoint an individual to carry out the duties of
22 the relevant office until the vacancy is filled.”.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 3347
24 of title 5, United States Code, in the event of a vacancy

1 for a position of Inspector General, section 403(h) of such
2 title, as amended by this Act, shall apply.

3 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a)(2)(C) of H.R.
5 7326, as passed by the House of Representatives on
6 December 3, 2024, shall have the force and effect of
7 law.

8 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
9 take effect before the amendments made by sub-
10 section (a).

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