To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to include additional information in requests and reports to Congress, to make information available to Congress regarding allegations closed without referral, to expand the membership of the Council, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MEADOWS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to include additional information in requests and reports to Congress, to make information available to Congress regarding allegations closed without referral, to expand the membership of the Council, 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,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Integrity Committee Transparency Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REQUESTS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 11(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, the Office of Inspector General involved, the length of time the Integrity Committee has been evaluating the allegation of wrongdoing, and a description of any previous written notice provided under this clause with respect to the allegation of wrongdoing, including the description provided for why additional time was needed.”;

(2) in paragraph (8)(A)(ii), by inserting “or corrective action” after “disciplinary action”; and

(3) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, including with respect to each Office of Inspector General with more than 50 employees, the number of allegations received with respect to each such Office.”.
SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING CLOSED WITHOUT REFERRAL.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—Section 11(d)(5)(B) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—If the Integrity Committee closes the allegation of wrongdoing without referral to the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee to initiate an investigation, the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee shall, not later than 30 days after receiving a request from the Chair or ranking minority member of a Committee of Congress, provide such Chair or ranking minority member a written description of the nature of the allegation of wrongdoing and how the Integrity Committee evaluated the allegation of wrongdoing for referral.

“(iv) REQUIREMENT TO FORWARD.—With respect to any written description provided under clause (iii), the Integrity Committee shall forward such description
to the members of the Integrity Committee
and to the Chairperson of the Council.”.

SEC. 4. ORAL BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.

Section 11(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978
(5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

“(14) ORAL BRIEFING.—

“(A) SEMIANNUAL ORAL BRIEFINGS FOR
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES.—Not later than 180
days after the date of the enactment of the In-
tegrity Committee Transparency Act of 2019,
and every 6 months thereafter, the Integrity
Committee shall seek to provide an oral briefing
to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of
the House of Representatives and the Com-
mittee on Homeland Security and Govern-
mental Affairs of the Senate on the activities of
the Integrity Committee, including—

“(i) the nature and number of the al-
legations received by the Integrity Council
in the preceding 6 months, including the
nature and number of allegations received
by the Integrity Council in the preceding 6
months with respect to each Office of In-
spector General;
“(ii) the nature and number of the allegations the Integrity Council closed without referral in the preceding 6 months and the reason why each allegation was closed without referral;

“(iii) the nature of any difficulty encountered by the Integrity Council when receiving, evaluating, or referring for investigation allegations in the preceding 6 months; and

“(iv) trends in the nature and number of allegations received by the Integrity Council overall and with respect to each Office of the Inspector General in the preceding 5 years, respectively.

“(B) OTHER BRIEFINGS.—The Integrity Committee shall provide an oral briefing of identical content to any other Committee of Congress upon the request of such Committee.”.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF CIGIE AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE.


(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(J) The former Inspector General appointed under paragraph (4).”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

“(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chairperson of the Council shall appoint a former Inspector General who served at an office established under section 2 or 8G to serve as a member of the Council.

“(B) INITIAL TERM.—The initial term of the former Inspector General appointed under subparagraph (A) shall be 3 years.

“(C) ADDITIONAL TERM.—The Chairperson of the Council may reappoint the former Inspector General appointed under subparagraph (A) to serve for an additional 3-year term.

“(D) RULES.—

“(i) LENGTH OF TERM UNAFFECTED.—The term of the former Inspector General appointed under subparagraph (A) shall not be affected if the Chairperson of the Council who appointed such former
Inspector General is no longer serving as
the Chairperson of the Council at any
point during such term.

“(ii) NO EFFECT OF ELECTION OF
NEW CHAIRPERSON.—If a new Chairperson
of the Council is elected during the initial
or additional term of the former Inspector
General appointed under subparagraph
(A), the new Chairperson may not appoint
a new former Inspector General to serve as
a member of the Council until the expira-
tion of the initial or additional term of the
former Inspector General, as so may be the
case.

“(E) COMPENSATION.—The former In-
spector General appointed under subparagraph
(A) shall not be compensated for services ren-
dered under this Act and shall not be consid-
ered a Federal employee for any purpose other
than for purposes of 81 (relating to compensa-
tion for injury) of title 5, United States Code,
and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28 (re-
lating to tort claims) of title 18, United States
Code.”; and
(2) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) The former Inspector General appointed under subsection (b)(4).”.