

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1401

To establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2023

Mr. OSBOURNE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, 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 “Federal Prison Over-  
5 sight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CREATION OF AN INSPECTIONS REGIME FOR THE  
7 BUREAU OF PRISONS.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of title 5, United  
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing:

1       “(e) INSPECTIONS REGIME.—

2           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

3              “(A) BUREAU.—The term ‘Bureau’ means  
4                  the Bureau of Prisons.

5              “(B) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘cov-  
6                  ered facility’—

7                  “(i) means a correctional facility oper-  
8                  ated by the Bureau; and

9                  “(ii) does not include a State, local,  
10                  Tribal, or territorial facility.

11              “(C) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ‘family  
12                  member’ includes a grandparent, parent, sib-  
13                  ling, spouse or domestic partner, child, aunt,  
14                  uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, grandchild, or any  
15                  other person related to an individual by blood,  
16                  adoption, marriage, civil union, or a romantic  
17                  or fostering relationship.

18              “(D) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term  
19                  ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector Gen-  
20                  eral of the Department of Justice.

21              “(E) OMBUDSMAN.—The term ‘Ombuds-  
22                  man’ means the Ombudsman established under  
23                  paragraph (3)(A).

24              “(F) REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INCARCER-  
25                  ATED PERSON.—The term ‘representative of an

1           incarcerated person' includes paid or unpaid  
2           legal counsel or any other person or entity cho-  
3           sen by an incarcerated person to represent the  
4           interests of the incarcerated person.

5           “(G) SEXUAL ABUSE.—The term ‘sexual  
6           abuse’ has the meaning given that term in sec-  
7           tion 115.6 of title 28, Code of Federal Regula-  
8           tions (or any successor thereto).

9           “(H) STAFF.—The term ‘staff’ means em-  
10          ployees and contractors of the Bureau.

11          “(2) INSPECTIONS OF COVERED FACILITIES BY  
12          THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

13          “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTIONS  
14          REGIME.—

15          “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector  
16          General shall conduct periodic inspections  
17          of covered facilities pursuant to the re-  
18          quirements of this subsection.

19          “(ii) ACCESS TO COVERED FACILI-  
20          TIES.—The Attorney General shall ensure  
21          that the Inspector General has access to  
22          any covered facility, including the incarcera-  
23          ted people, detainees, staff, bargaining  
24          unit representative organization, and any  
25          other information that the Inspector Gen-

1           eral determines is necessary to carry out  
2           the provisions of this subsection.

3           “(iii) NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS.—An  
4           inspection of a covered facility under this  
5           subsection may be announced or unan-  
6           nounced.

7           “(iv) COMMUNITY INPUT.—In devel-  
8           oping the inspections regime under this  
9           subsection, the Inspector General is en-  
10          couraged to consult formerly incarcerated  
11          people, family or representatives of incor-  
12          cerated people, and community advocates.

13          “(B) INSPECTION CRITERIA.—An inspec-  
14          tion of a covered facility under this subsection  
15          may include an assessment of the following:

16           “(i) The policies, procedures, and ad-  
17           ministrative guidance of the facility.

18           “(ii) The conditions of confinement.

19           “(iii) Working conditions for staff.

20           “(iv) The availability of evidence-  
21          based recidivism reduction programs and  
22          productive activities, as such terms are de-  
23          fined in section 3635 of title 18, and the  
24          application of earned time credits pursuant  
25          to section 3632 of title 18.

1                 “(v) The policies and procedures re-  
2 lating to visitation.

3                 “(vi) The policies and practices relat-  
4 ing to classification and housing.

5                 “(vii) The policies and practices relat-  
6 ing to the use of single-cell confinement,  
7 administrative segregation, and other  
8 forms of restrictive housing.

9                 “(viii) The medical facilities and med-  
10 ical and mental health care, programs, pro-  
11 cedures, and policies, including the number  
12 and qualifications of medical and mental  
13 health staff and the availability of gender-  
14 appropriate and trauma-responsive care for  
15 incarcerated people.

16                 “(ix) Medical services and mental  
17 health resources for staff.

18                 “(x) Lockdowns at the facility.

19                 “(xi) Credible allegations of incidents  
20 involving excessive use of force, completed,  
21 attempted, or threatened violence, includ-  
22 ing sexual abuse, or misconduct committed  
23 against incarcerated people.

24                 “(xii) Credible allegations of incidents  
25 involving completed, attempted, or threat-

1                     ened violence, including sexual violence or  
2                     sexual abuse, committed against staff.

3                     “(xiii) Adequacy of staffing at the  
4                     covered facility, including the number and  
5                     job assignments of staff, the ratio of staff  
6                     to inmates at the facility, the staff position  
7                     vacancy rate at the facility, and the use of  
8                     overtime, mandatory overtime, and aug-  
9                     mentation.

10                    “(xiv) Deaths or serious injuries of in-  
11                     carcerated people or staff that occurred at  
12                     the facility.

13                    “(xv) The existence of contraband  
14                     that jeopardizes the health or safety of in-  
15                     carcerated people or staff, including inci-  
16                     dent reports, referrals for criminal pros-  
17                     ecution, and confirmed prosecutions.

18                    “(xvi) Access of incarcerated people  
19                     to—

20                    “(I) legal counsel, including con-  
21                     fidential meetings and communica-  
22                     tions;

23                    “(II) discovery and other case-re-  
24                     lated legal materials; and

1                         “(III) the law library at the cov-  
2                         ered facility.

3                         “(xvii) Any aspect of the operation of  
4                         the covered facility that the Inspector Gen-  
5                         eral determines to be necessary over the  
6                         course of an inspection.

7                         “(C) INSPECTION SCHEDULE.—An inspec-  
8                         tion of a covered facility under this subsection  
9                         shall be conducted on a schedule based on the  
10                         combined risk score of the covered facility as  
11                         described in subparagraph (E) and the fol-  
12                         lowing considerations:

13                         “(i) Higher risk facilities shall receive  
14                         more frequent inspections.

15                         “(ii) The Inspector General shall re-  
16                         evaluate the combined risk score method-  
17                         ology and inspection schedule periodically  
18                         and may alter 1 or both to ensure that  
19                         higher risk facilities are identified and re-  
20                         ceiving the appropriate frequency of in-  
21                         spection.

22                         “(iii) A determination by the Inspec-  
23                         tor General that 1 or more of the criteria  
24                         listed in subparagraph (B) should be in-

1                   spected, with regard to a covered facility or  
2                   group of covered facilities.

3                   “(D) REPORT.—

4                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon completion  
5                   of an inspection of a covered facility under  
6                   this subsection, or a group of inspections  
7                   that assess the same or similar issues at  
8                   more than 1 facility, the Inspector General  
9                   shall produce a report to be made available  
10                  to the Attorney General, the Committee on  
11                  the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee  
12                  on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
13                  resentatives, employee representative orga-  
14                  nizations, and the public, that addresses 1  
15                  or more of the following topics:

16                  “(I) A characterization of the  
17                  conditions of confinement and work-  
18                  ing conditions, including a summary  
19                  of the inspection criteria reviewed  
20                  under clauses (ii) and (iii) of subpara-  
21                  graph (B).

22                  “(II) Recommendations made to  
23                  the covered facility to improve safety  
24                  and conditions within the facility, in-

1                   cluding recommendations regarding  
2                   staffing.

3                   “(III) A recommended timeline  
4                   for the next inspection and assess-  
5                   ment, which shall not limit the au-  
6                   thority of the Inspector General to  
7                   perform additional inspections and as-  
8                   sessments, announced or unan-  
9                   nounced.

10                  “(IV) Any other issues or mat-  
11                  ters identified during the inspection of  
12                  the facility or facilities.

13                  “(ii) CONSULTATION WITH STAKE-  
14                  HOLDERS.—In developing the rec-  
15                  ommendations described in clause (i), the  
16                  Inspector General may consult with stake-  
17                  holders, including employee representative  
18                  organizations.

19                  “(E) RISK SCORE.—Not later than 18  
20                  months after the date of enactment of the Fed-  
21                  eral Prison Oversight Act, the Inspector Gen-  
22                  eral shall establish methodology and protocols  
23                  for determining the combined risk score of a  
24                  covered facility, which—

1                 “(i) shall be delivered to the Com-  
2 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and  
3 the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
4 House of Representatives; and  
5                 “(ii) may be based on—  
6                         “(I) frequency and duration of  
7 lockdowns;  
8                         “(II) availability of program-  
9 ming;  
10                         “(III) staffing levels;  
11                         “(IV) access to adequate physical  
12 and mental health resources;  
13                         “(V) incidences of physical as-  
14 sault, neglect, or sexual abuse;  
15                         “(VI) opportunity to maintain  
16 family ties through phone calls, video  
17 calls, mail, email, and visitation;  
18                         “(VII) adequacy of the nutrition  
19 provided;  
20                         “(VIII) amount or frequency of  
21 staff discipline cases;  
22                         “(IX) amount or frequency of  
23 misconduct by people incarcerated at  
24 the covered facility;

1                         “(X) access of incarcerated peo-  
2                         ple to—  
3                             “(aa) legal counsel, includ-  
4                         ing confidential meetings and  
5                         communications;  
6                             “(bb) discovery and other  
7                         case-related legal materials; and  
8                             “(cc) the law library at the  
9                         covered facility; and  
10                         “(XI) other factors as deter-  
11                         mined by the Inspector General.

12                         “(F) BUREAU RESPONSE TO REPORT.—

13                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60  
14                         days after the date on which the Inspector  
15                         General issues a report under subparagraph  
16                         (D), the Bureau shall respond in  
17                         writing to the inspection report, which  
18                         shall include a corrective action plan.

19                         “(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each  
20                         response and action plan described in  
21                         clause (i) shall be made available to the  
22                         public on the website of the Inspector Gen-  
23                         eral.

24                         “(iii) COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTIVE  
25                         ACTION PLAN.—The Inspector General

1           may conduct additional inspections or in-  
2           vestigations, announced or unannounced,  
3           to monitor the compliance of the Bureau  
4           with a corrective action plan described in  
5           clause (i).

6           “(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The au-  
7           thority in this paragraph is consistent with and  
8           does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise  
9           alter the authority provided to the Inspector  
10          General under section 406.

11          “(3) OMBUDSMAN.—

12          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
13          after the date of enactment of the Federal Pris-  
14          on Oversight Act, the Attorney General shall es-  
15          tablish in the Department of Justice an Om-  
16          budsman who may—

17           “(i) receive a complaint from an in-  
18           carcerated person, a family member, a rep-  
19           resentative of an incarcerated person, staff,  
20           or others regarding issues that may ad-  
21           versely affect the health, safety, welfare, or  
22           rights of incarcerated people or staff, in-  
23           cluding—

24           “(I) abuse or neglect;

1                     “(II) the conditions of confinement,  
2                     including the availability of  
3                     health care;

4                     “(III) working conditions of  
5                     staff;

6                     “(IV) decisions, administrative  
7                     actions, or guidance of the Bureau,  
8                     including those relating to prison  
9                     staffing;

10                    “(V) inaction or omissions by the  
11                    Bureau, including failure to consider  
12                    or respond to complaints or grievances  
13                    by incarcerated people or staff  
14                    promptly or appropriately;

15                    “(VI) policies, rules, or procedures of the Bureau, including gross  
16                    mismanagement; and

17                    “(VII) alleged violations of non-criminal law by staff or incarcerated  
18                    people that may adversely affect the  
19                    health, safety, welfare, or rights of  
20                    any person;

21                    “(ii) refer a complainant and others  
22                    to appropriate resources or Federal agencies;

1                     “(iii) make inquiries and recommend  
2                     actions to appropriate entities on behalf of  
3                     a complainant, the Ombudsman, or others;  
4                     and

5                     “(iv) decline to investigate or take any  
6                     action with respect to any complaint and,  
7                     in any case in which the Ombudsman de-  
8                     clines to investigate or take any action,  
9                     shall notify the complainant in writing of  
10                    the decision not to investigate or take any  
11                    action and the reasons for the decision.

12                   “(B) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The  
13                    Ombudsman—

14                     “(i) may not investigate—  
15                         “(I) any complaints relating to  
16                         the underlying criminal conviction of  
17                         an incarcerated person;

18                         “(II) a complaint from staff that  
19                         relates to the employment or contrac-  
20                         tual relationship of the staff member  
21                         with the Bureau, unless the complaint  
22                         is related to the health, safety, wel-  
23                         fare, working conditions, gross mis-  
24                         management of a covered facility, or

1                   rehabilitation of incarcerated people;

2                   or

3                   “(III) any allegation of criminal  
4                   or administrative misconduct, as de-  
5                   scribed in subsection (b)(2), and shall  
6                   refer any matter covered by sub-  
7                   section (b)(2) to the Inspector Gen-  
8                   eral, who may, at the discretion of In-  
9                   spector General, refer such allegations  
10                  back to the Ombudsman or the inter-  
11                  nal affairs office of the appropriate  
12                  component of the Department of Jus-  
13                  tice; and

14                  “(ii) may not levy any fees for the  
15                  submission or investigation of complaints.

16                  “(C) DECISION ON THE MERITS OF A COM-  
17                  PLAINT.—At the conclusion of an investigation  
18                  of a complaint, the Ombudsman shall—

19                  “(i) render a decision on the merits of  
20                  each complaint;

21                  “(ii) communicate the decision to the  
22                  complainant, if any, and to the Bureau;  
23                  and

24                  “(iii) state the recommendations and  
25                  reasoning of the Ombudsman if, in the

1                   opinion of the Ombudsman, the Bureau or  
2                   any employee thereof should—

3                         “(I) consider the matter further;

4                         “(II) modify or cancel any action;

5                         “(III) alter a rule, practice, or  
6                         ruling;

7                         “(IV) explain in detail the ad-  
8                         ministrative action in question; or

9                         “(V) rectify an omission.

10                         “(D) ACTIONS FOLLOWING A DECISION BY  
11                         THE OMBUDSMAN.—

12                         “(i) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
13                         ABOUT ACTIONS TAKEN.—If the Ombuds-  
14                         man so requests, the Bureau shall, within  
15                         the time specified, respond to any inquiry  
16                         or request for information from the Om-  
17                         budsman and inform the Ombudsman  
18                         about any action taken on the rec-  
19                         ommendations provided by the Ombuds-  
20                         man or the reasons for not complying with  
21                         any request for information or rec-  
22                         ommendations.

23                         “(ii) REPORTING OF CONTINUING  
24                         ISSUES.—If the Ombudsman believes,  
25                         based on an investigation conducted by the

1                             Ombudsman, that there has been or con-  
2                             tinues to be a significant health, safety,  
3                             welfare, working conditions, or rehabilita-  
4                             tion issue, the Ombudsman shall report the  
5                             finding to the Attorney General, the Com-  
6                             mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and  
7                             the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
8                             House of Representatives.

9                             “(iii) MONITORING OF INTERNAL DIS-  
10                             CIPLINARY ACTIONS OF THE BUREAU.—In  
11                             the event that the Bureau conducts an in-  
12                             ternal disciplinary investigation or review  
13                             of 1 or more staff members of the Bureau  
14                             as a result of an investigation by the Om-  
15                             budsman, the Ombudsman may monitor  
16                             the internal disciplinary action to ensure a  
17                             fair and objective process.

18                             “(4) INSPECTOR GENERAL AND OMBUDSMAN  
19                             ACCESS TO BUREAU OF PRISONS FACILITIES.—

20                             “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon demand, in per-  
21                             son or in writing and with or without prior no-  
22                             tice, the Inspector General and the Ombudsman  
23                             shall be granted access to all Bureau facilities,  
24                             which shall include—

1                     “(i) all areas that are used by incarcerated people, all areas that are accessible  
2                     to incarcerated people, and access to programs for incarcerated people at any time  
3                     of day; and

4                     “(ii) the opportunity to—

5                         “(I) conduct private and confidential interviews with any incarcerated person, staff, employee representative organization, or other person;  
6                     and

7                         “(II) communicate privately and confidentially, both formally and informally, with incarcerated people or staff by telephone, mail, electronic communication, and in person, which shall not be monitored or recorded by or conducted in the presence of staff.

8                     “(B) PURPOSE OF VISITS.—Access to Bureau facilities under subparagraph (A) is for the purposes of—

9                         “(i) conducting announced or unannounced inspections by the Inspector General as described in paragraph (2), including inspections to monitor the compliance

1                   of the Bureau with a corrective action plan  
2                   described in paragraph (2)(F)(i);

3                   “(ii) conducting an investigation or  
4                   other activity by the Ombudsman as de-  
5                   scribed in paragraph (3); and

6                   “(iii) inspecting, viewing,  
7                   photographing, and video recording all  
8                   areas of the facility that are used by incar-  
9                   cerated people or are accessible to incarcera-  
10                  ted people.

11                  “(C) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—

12                  “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector  
13                  General and the Ombudsman have the  
14                  right to access, inspect, and copy all rel-  
15                  evant information, records, or documents  
16                  in the possession or control of the Bureau  
17                  that either the Inspector General or the  
18                  Ombudsman considers necessary in an in-  
19                  spection, investigation, or other activity,  
20                  and the Bureau shall assist the Inspector  
21                  General and the Ombudsman in obtaining  
22                  the necessary releases for those documents  
23                  that are specifically restricted or privileged  
24                  for use by the Bureau.

1                         “(ii) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS.—

2                         Following notification from the Inspector  
3                         General or the Ombudsman with a written  
4                         demand for access to Bureau records, the  
5                         Bureau shall provide access to the re-  
6                         quested documentation in a manner con-  
7                         sistent with section 552a (commonly  
8                         known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’)—

9                         “(I) not later than 20 business  
10                        days after receipt of the written re-  
11                        quest; or

12                        “(II) in the case of records per-  
13                        taining to the death of an incarcerated  
14                        person or staff, threats of bodily  
15                        harm including sexual or physical as-  
16                        saults, or the denial or delay of nec-  
17                        essary medical treatment, not later  
18                        than 5 business days after receipt of  
19                        the written request, unless the Inspec-  
20                        tor General or the Ombudsman con-  
21                        sents to an extension of that time  
22                        frame.

23                        “(D) MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF OPER-  
24                        ATIONS.—The Inspector General and the Om-  
25                        budsman shall—

- 1                 “(i) develop procedures—  
2                         “(I) to ensure that the Inspector  
3                     General has access to, and the right  
4                     to review and investigate, any allega-  
5                     tions received by the Ombudsman to  
6                     ensure that the Inspector General  
7                     may carry out the authorities provided  
8                     to the Inspector General under this  
9                     chapter; and  
10                         “(II) that may provide that the  
11                     Inspector General and the Ombuds-  
12                     man will determine certain categories  
13                     of allegations that are not necessary  
14                     for the Inspector General to review  
15                     prior to the Ombudsman proceeding;  
16                         “(ii) work with the Bureau to mini-  
17                     mize disruption to the operations of the  
18                     Bureau due to inspections, investigations,  
19                     or other activity;  
20                         “(iii) comply with the security clear-  
21                     ance processes of the Bureau, provided  
22                     these processes do not impede the activities  
23                     described in this subsection; and

1                         “(iv) limit the public release of any  
2                         photographs or video recordings that would  
3                         jeopardize—

4                         “(I) the safety, security, or good  
5                         order of a covered facility or the Bu-  
6                         reau; or

7                         “(II) public safety.

8                         “(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The au-  
9                         thority in this paragraph is consistent with and  
10                         does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise  
11                         alter the authority provided to the Inspector  
12                         General under section 406.

13                         “(5) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

14                         “(A) IN GENERAL.—Correspondence and  
15                         communication with the Inspector General and  
16                         the Ombudsman, including communication re-  
17                         garding an issue described in section 4051 of  
18                         title 18 is confidential and shall be protected as  
19                         privileged correspondence in the same manner  
20                         as legal correspondence or communications.

21                         “(B) PROCEDURES.—Subject to subpara-  
22                         graph (C), the Inspector General and the Om-  
23                         budsman shall establish confidentiality proce-  
24                         dures for all information maintained by the re-  
25                         spective office to ensure that, to the greatest

1 extent practicable, before, during, or after an  
2 investigation—

3 “(i) staff are not aware of the identity  
4 of a complainant; and

5 “(ii) other incarcerated people are not  
6 aware of the identity of a complainant.

7 “(C) EXCEPTION.—The Inspector General  
8 and the Ombudsman may disclose identifying  
9 information for the sole purpose of carrying out  
10 an investigation and as otherwise authorized  
11 under section 407(b).

12 “(6) FILING COMPLAINTS.—

13 “(A) FILING COMPLAINTS ON BEHALF OF  
14 AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

15 “(i) ONLINE FORM.—The Ombuds-  
16 man shall create a secure online form to be  
17 made available on the website of the Om-  
18 budsman where the family members,  
19 friends, and representatives of incarcerated  
20 people can submit complaints and inquiries  
21 on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i)  
22 on behalf of an individual incarcerated at  
23 a covered facility.

24 “(ii) TELEPHONE HOTLINE.—The  
25 Ombudsman shall create a telephone hot-

1 line through which family members,  
2 friends, and representatives of incarcerated  
3 people can call to file complaints and in-  
4 quiries on issues identified in paragraph  
5 (3)(A)(i) on behalf of an individual incor-  
6 cerated at a covered facility.

7 “(B) FILING COMPLAINTS BY AN INCAR-  
8 CERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

9 “(i) INTERNAL PRIVATE SUBMIS-  
10 SION.—The Bureau shall provide multiple  
11 internal ways for incarcerated individuals  
12 in covered facilities to privately submit to  
13 the Ombudsman complaints and inquiries  
14 on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i).

15 “(ii) SUBMISSION VIA INDEPENDENT  
16 ENTITY.—The Bureau shall also provide  
17 not less than 1 process for incarcerated in-  
18 dividuals in covered facilities to submit  
19 complaints and inquiries on issues identi-  
20 fied in paragraph (3)(A)(i) to a public or  
21 private entity or office that is not part of  
22 the Bureau and that is able to receive and  
23 immediately forward complaints and in-  
24 quiries to the Ombudsman, allowing the in-

1                   carcerated individual to remain anonymous  
2                   upon request.

3                   “(C) DETERMINATION.—

4                   “(i) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.—  
5                   Not later than 5 business days after sub-  
6                   mission of a complaint or inquiry under  
7                   subparagraph (A) or (B), the Ombudsman  
8                   shall confirm receipt.

9                   “(ii) DETERMINATION.—Not later  
10                  than 15 business days after issuing the  
11                  confirmation under clause (i), the Ombuds-  
12                  man shall make a determination as to  
13                  whether any action is warranted and notify  
14                  the complainant of the determination.

15                  “(iii) STATEMENT REGARDING DECI-  
16                  SION.—If the Ombudsman has determined  
17                  action is unwarranted under clause (ii), the  
18                  Ombudsman shall provide a written state-  
19                  ment explaining the decision to the com-  
20                  plainant.

21                  “(D) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Ombuds-  
22                  man shall coordinate with the Bureau to edu-  
23                  cate incarcerated people, representatives of in-  
24                  carcerated people, and the public about the ex-  
25                  istence and functions of the Ombudsman.

## 1                 “(E) ADMINISTRATIVE EXHAUSTION.—

2                 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as  
3                 a necessary administrative remedy required for  
4                 exhaustion under section 7(a) of the Civil  
5                 Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42  
6                 U.S.C. 1997e(a)).

## 7                 “(7) PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—

8                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau and staff  
9                 of the Bureau shall not discharge, retaliate  
10                 against, or in any manner discriminate against  
11                 any complainant or any person or entity that  
12                 has instituted or caused to be instituted any  
13                 proceeding, investigation, or inspection under or  
14                 related to this subsection.

15                 “(B) INVESTIGATION.—Any alleged dis-  
16                 charge of, retaliation against, or discrimination  
17                 against a complainant, entity, or person be-  
18                 cause of a complaint, investigation, or inspec-  
19                 tion may be considered by the Ombudsman as  
20                 an appropriate subject of an investigation or  
21                 other activity.

## 22                 “(8) DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.—

23                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
24                 and the Inspector General shall ensure that im-  
25                 plementation of this subsection is consistent

1       with section 552a (commonly known as the  
2       ‘Privacy Act of 1974’) and all other applicable  
3       laws, and respects appropriate due process pro-  
4       tections for staff.

5                 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
6       in this paragraph shall be construed to modify,  
7       supersede, or otherwise affect the authority of  
8       the Inspector General to access all records, re-  
9       ports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, rec-  
10      ommendations, or other materials, as author-  
11      ized by section 406(a).

12                 “(9) PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL APPROPRIATION  
13      FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—It is the sense of  
14      Congress that the amount allocated to the Inspector  
15      General and the Ombudsman to carry out the activi-  
16      ties described in this subsection should equal an  
17      amount between 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent of the  
18      annual appropriation for the Bureau.”.

19                 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amend-  
20      ments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that  
21      is 90 days after the date on which appropriations are  
22      made available to the Inspector General of the Depart-  
23      ment of Justice and the Department of Justice for the

- 1 specific purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act
- 2 and the amendments made by this Act.

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