



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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To: Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations

Re: Opposition to AB 382

The League of Women Voters supports an open governmental system that is accountable, responsive and capable of making decisions. AB 382 provides for the creation of new positions of “inspector general” in each of 13 state agencies, and it allows these inspectors to act independently and without accountability.

According to the legislative analysis, the inspectors may review claims by any person who has been adversely affected by an agency action. The bill provides that if an inspector general elects to review a claim, the inspector must determine whether the agency action or order was inconsistent with any law or administrative rule. The inspectors must report all such determinations to the appropriate standing committees in each house, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. Given that these legislative committees are already tasked with oversight, this legislation adds another layer of bureaucracy.

In addition, this legislation duplicates the work of the Legislative Audit Bureau, which has long (and even recently) been praised for its nonpartisan work by leaders of both political parties.

This bill also is an intrusion by the legislative branch into the agencies of the executive branch. The inspectors would be appointed by and report to the legislature, but the agencies would have to fund the costs associated with these new positions from their own budgets. These funds are supposed to come from discoveries of waste, abuse or inefficiencies. Is that not a built-in incentive to insure judgments of waste or inefficiency in an agency that serves citizens?

We believe this legislation is a waste of tax dollars, in that it creates an additional layer of bureaucracy to carry out a function already being well addressed by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

AB 382 is an unfunded mandate and an abuse of power by the legislative branch. It should be rejected.