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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 18, 2025
Subject: Bill Brief on HB 2217, as amended by house committee

House Bill 2217 expands the power of the inspector general to investigate and audit all state cash, food and health assistance programs.

Subsection (a) provides definitions for terms used through the bill, including cash assistance, food assistance and health assistance.

Current law provides that the inspector general has authority to audit, investigate and review the performance of the state medicaid program. Subsection (b) provides that inspector general's purpose is to establish a full-time program of audit, investigation and performance review to provide increased accountability, integrity and oversight of the state cash, food or health assistance programs. Subsection (b)(2)(B) states that a former or current inspector general shall not be employed as an executive or manager for any program or agency subject to the oversight by the office of the inspector general for a period of two years after such inspector general's period of service as the inspector general has concluded.

Subsection (g) states that the inspector general and the inspector general's designees shall have original justification to investigate crimes related to public assistance, the power to issue, serve or cause to be served subpoenas or other process of service in aid of investigation, the power to compel by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as directly related to state cash, food or health assistance programs, the power to administer oaths and take sworn statements, and

the power to serve and execute in any county search warrants that relate to investigations being executed by the office of the inspector general.

The house committee amended the definition of "health assistance" to exclude the state employee health benefits plan, so that program would not be under the scope of the inspector general's authority to investigate and audit. HB 2217 passed the house on a vote of 85-37 and would take effect on July 1, 2025, after its publication in the statute book.