State Representative Fred Crespo and State Senator Heather Steans file a Series of OEIG-Supported Bills in the 99th General Assembly

The OEIG is very pleased to announce that Rep. Fred Crespo in the House (HB 2585, HB 2586, and HB 2587) and Sen. Heather Steans in the Senate (SB 1542, SB 1543, and SB 1544) filed a series of OEIG-supported bills in the 99th General Assembly.

The proposed legislation is intended to address the lack of transparency and to facilitate more efficient investigations and a better-informed public. If passed, these bills will:

- Increase transparency by increasing the number of OEIG founded reports publicly released. (HB2585 & SB1544)
- Allow OEIG staff to disclose information to agency heads regarding on-going investigations when matters of public safety are implicated. (HB2587 & SB1542)
- Ensure that OEIG staff has access to needed information and provide for the enhanced protection of the confidentiality of OEIG investigations. (HB2586 & SB1543)

Specifically, these bills will amend the 2003 Ethics Act that created the various Offices of Executive Inspectors General and the Executive Ethics Commission. In 2009, amendments to the Ethics Act expanded the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the OEIG. The 2009 amendments also created a limited category of founded reports that must be released, however, even with these changes, some OEIG founded reports still never see the light of day.

The OEIG’s proposals follow the agenda outlined in a December 2014 letter delivered to the leaders of the four legislative caucuses. The OEIG looks forward to discussing these bills and related proposals with legislators, the public, and interested parties in the weeks to come. The OEIG anticipates additional co-sponsors in the near future and will be sending letters of support to members of the General Assembly, the administration, and others.

David Morrison
Director of Ethics Training & Compliance