_____ BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY _____

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS BY THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Investigations and enforcement actions by office of inspector general.** The office of inspector general is responsible for investigating matters relating to public assistance fraud, waste, and abuse and may:

(1) initiate and conduct any investigation if the department has cause to believe that a fraudulent act has been committed against any departmental public assistance program;

(2) obtain any reports, including police reports, criminal history record information, or referrals of all fraudulent actions against any departmental public assistance program;

(3) obtain access to any related records, documents, or data, including medical records, as authorized by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 29 U.S.C. 1181 et seq., to assist in the investigation of an alleged fraudulent act against public assistance programs; and

(4) cooperate with federal, state, and local law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and the attorney general in the investigation and prosecution of public assistance fraud.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 2, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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