

SENATE NO. 1877

AN ACT REFORMING THE OVERSIGHT OF STATE FINANCES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 7A of the General Laws as most recently appearing in the 2002
2 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking out said section 1, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following:

4 There shall be a state agency within, but not subject to, the executive office for administration and
5 finance, called the office of the comptroller general. The comptroller general shall be the
6 administrative and executive head of said office and shall be appointed by majority vote of the
7 Comptroller General Advisory Board for a term of seven years. The Comptroller shall be eligible
8 for re-appointment for one additional seven year term, but shall not serve beyond a total of fourteen
9 consecutive years. The person so appointed shall be selected without regard to political affiliation
10 and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability and shall hold an advanced degree in
11 accounting, auditing, financial management, business administration, or public administration.

12 At the time of his appointment as comptroller general; the person so appointed shall give bond in
13 the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars or such higher amount as the advisory board to the
14 comptroller general shall fix for the faithful performance of his duties. Notwithstanding the

15 provisions of chapter thirty the comptroller general shall receive a salary as determined by the
16 advisory board to the comptroller general that is no less than the salary provided to the inspector
17 general; provided, however, that the salary of the comptroller general shall not be adjusted to reflect
18 bond premiums nor shall such premiums be paid by or reimbursed by the office of the comptroller
19 general or with any state monies.

20 The person so appointed may be removed from said office, for cause, by majority vote of the
21 comptroller general advisory board after a hearing if one is requested by the comptroller general.
22 Such cause shall include neglect of duty, misconduct, or conviction of a crime.

23 In the case of a vacancy in the position of comptroller general, his successor shall be appointed
24 in the same manner.

25 Section 2. Section 1 of Chapter 7A of the General Laws as most recently appearing in the 2004
26 Official Edition is hereby further amended by striking out, in the last sentence, the word “four,” and
27 inserting in place thereof, the word “seven.”

28 Section 3. Section 2 of Chapter 7A of the General Laws as most recently appearing in the 2002
29 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking out the section, and inserting in place thereof, the
30 following new section 2:

31 Section 2. There shall be a Comptroller General Advisory Board which shall consist of the auditor,
32 who shall be chair, the attorney general, the treasurer, the secretary of administration and finance,
33 the inspector-general, and two persons who have experience in government accounting,
34 management, or public finance who shall be elected by the initial five members, and who shall not
35 both be members of the same political party. The two appointed members shall serve for three-year
36 terms, but may not be reappointed more than once on a consecutive basis. The appointed members
37 may be removed for cause, and their successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the

38 original appointment. The members of the comptroller general advisory board shall be reimbursed
39 for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their advisory board duties,
40 but shall not be otherwise compensated for their services.

41 The comptroller general advisory board shall meet at least four times a year. Said advisory
42 board shall provide advice and counsel to the comptroller general in the performance of his or her
43 duties. The advisory board shall be responsible for reviewing any rules or regulations promulgated
44 by the comptroller general prior to their implementation. The advisory board shall also review prior
45 to publication the annual financial report of the commonwealth published by the comptroller
46 general.

47 Any action of the advisory board shall be taken with the approval of no less than four members
48 of the advisory board.

49 Section 4. Chapter 7A of the General Laws as most recently appearing in the 2002 official edition is
50 hereby amended by striking out the word “comptroller,” wherever it appears in said chapter, and
51 inserting in place thereof, the words “comptroller-general.”

52 Section 5. The incumbent comptroller holding office on the date of the passage of this act shall be
53 eligible for appointment to a full term under the provisions of this act, provided, however, that he
54 shall not be eligible for re-appointment to a second full term.

55 Section 6. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.