

21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

APRIL 13, 2018.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BRADY of Texas, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 5445]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5445) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

- (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “21st Century IRS Act”.
- (b) **AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- (c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—CYBERSECURITY AND IDENTITY PROTECTION

- Sec. 101. Public-private partnership to address identity theft refund fraud.
- Sec. 102. Recommendations of Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee regarding identity theft refund fraud.
- Sec. 103. Information sharing and analysis center.
- Sec. 104. Compliance by contractors with confidentiality safeguards.
- Sec. 105. Report on electronic payments.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 201. Management of Internal Revenue Service information technology.
- Sec. 202. Development of online accounts and portals.
- Sec. 203. Internet platform for Form 1099 filings.

TITLE III—MODERNIZATION OF CONSENT-BASED INCOME VERIFICATION SYSTEM

- Sec. 301. Disclosure of taxpayer information for third-party income verification.
- Sec. 302. Limit redisclosures and uses of consent-based disclosures of tax return information.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

- Sec. 401. Electronic filing of returns.
- Sec. 402. Uniform standards for the use of electronic signatures for disclosure authorizations to, and other authorizations of, practitioners.
- Sec. 403. Payment of taxes by debit and credit cards.

TITLE I—CYBERSECURITY AND IDENTITY PROTECTION

SEC. 101. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT REFUND FRAUD.

The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall work collaboratively with the public and private sectors to protect taxpayers from identity theft refund fraud.

SEC. 102. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ELECTRONIC TAX ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING IDENTITY THEFT REFUND FRAUD.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the advisory group convened by the Secretary pursuant to section 2001(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (commonly known as the Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee) studies (including by providing organized public forums) and makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding methods to prevent identity theft and refund fraud.

SEC. 103. INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) may participate in an information sharing and analysis center to centralize, standardize, and enhance data compilation and analysis to facilitate sharing actionable data and information with respect to identity theft tax refund fraud.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall develop metrics for measuring the success of such center in detecting and preventing identity theft tax refund fraud.

(c) **DISCLOSURE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6103(k) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) **DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF CYBERSECURITY AND THE PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT TAX REFUND FRAUD.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Under such procedures and subject to such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose specified return information to specified ISAC participants to the extent that the Secretary determines such disclosure is in furtherance of effective Federal tax administration relating to the detection or prevention of identity theft tax refund fraud, validation of taxpayer identity, authentication of taxpayer returns, or detection or prevention of cybersecurity threats.

“(B) **SPECIFIED ISAC PARTICIPANTS.**—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘specified ISAC participant’ means—

“(I) any person designated by the Secretary as having primary responsibility for a function performed with respect to the information sharing and analysis center described in section 403(a) of the 21st Century IRS Act, and

“(II) any person subject to the requirements of section 7216 and which is a participant in such information sharing and analysis center.

“(ii) **INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT.**—Such term shall not include any person unless such person has entered into a written agreement with the Secretary setting forth the terms and conditions for the disclosure of information to such person under this paragraph, including requirements regarding the protection and safeguarding of such information by such person.

“(C) **SPECIFIED RETURN INFORMATION.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘specified return information’ means—

“(i) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of potential identity theft refund fraud—

“(I) in the case of such return filed electronically, the internet protocol address, device identification, email domain name, speed of completion, method of authentication, refund method, and such other return information related to the electronic filing characteristics of such return as the Secretary may identify for purposes of this subclause, and

“(II) in the case of such return prepared by a tax return preparer, identifying information with respect to such tax return preparer, including the preparer taxpayer identification number and electronic filer identification number of such preparer,

“(ii) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of a identity theft refund fraud which has been confirmed by the Secretary

(pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may provide), the information referred to in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i), the name and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer as it appears on the return, and any bank account and routing information provided for making a refund in connection with such return, and

“(iii) in the case of any cybersecurity threat to the Internal Revenue Service, information similar to the information described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) with respect to such threat.

“(D) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—

“(i) DESIGNATED THIRD PARTIES.—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I) shall be used only for the purposes of and to the extent necessary in—

“(I) performing the function such person is designated to perform under such subparagraph,

“(II) facilitating disclosures authorized under subparagraph (A) to persons described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), and

“(III) facilitating disclosures authorized under subsection (d) to participants in such information sharing and analysis center.

“(ii) RETURN PREPARERS.—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) shall be treated for purposes of section 7216 as information furnished to such person for, or in connection with, the preparation of a return of the tax imposed under chapter 1.

“(E) DATA PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDS.—Return information disclosed under this paragraph shall be subject to such protections and safeguards as the Secretary may require in regulations or other guidance or in the written agreement referred to in subparagraph (B)(ii). Such written agreement shall include a requirement that any unauthorized access to information disclosed under this paragraph, and any breach of any system in which such information is held, be reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.”

(2) APPLICATION OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

(A) Section 6103(a)(3) is amended by striking “subsection (k)(10)” and inserting “paragraph (10) or (13) of subsection (k)”.

(B) Section 7213(a)(2) is amended by inserting “or (13)” after “(k)(10)”.

SEC. 104. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTORS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY SAFEGUARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(p) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHER AGENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed to any contractor or other agent of a Federal, State, or local agency unless such agency, to the satisfaction of the Secretary—

“(A) has requirements in effect which require each such contractor or other agent which would have access to returns or return information to provide safeguards (within the meaning of paragraph (4)) to protect the confidentiality of such returns or return information,

“(B) agrees to conduct an on-site review every 3 years (or a mid-point review in the case of contracts or agreements of less than 3 years in duration) of each contractor or other agent to determine compliance with such requirements,

“(C) submits the findings of the most recent review conducted under subparagraph (B) to the Secretary as part of the report required by paragraph (4)(E), and

“(D) certifies to the Secretary for the most recent annual period that such contractor or other agent is in compliance with all such requirements.

The certification required by subparagraph (D) shall include the name and address of each contractor and other agent, a description of the contract or agreement with such contractor or other agent, and the duration of such contract or agreement. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to disclosures pursuant to subsection (n) for purposes of Federal tax administration.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6103(p)(8)(B) is amended by inserting “or paragraph (9)” after “subparagraph (A)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 105. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary (or the Secretary’s delegate), in coordination with the Bureau of Fiscal Service and the Internal Revenue Service, and in consultation with private sector financial insti-

tutions, shall submit a written report to Congress describing how the government can utilize new payment platforms to increase the number of tax refunds paid by electronic funds transfer. Such report shall weigh the interests of reducing identity theft tax refund fraud, reducing the Federal Government's costs in delivering tax refunds, the costs and any associated fees charged to taxpayers (including monthly and point-of-service fees) to access their tax refunds, the impact on individuals who do not have access to financial accounts or institutions, and ensuring payments are made to accounts at a financial institution that complies with section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91-508, and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to collectively as the "Bank Secrecy Act") and the USA PATRIOT Act. Such report shall include any legislative recommendations necessary to accomplish these goals.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 201. MANAGEMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

(a) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—Section 7803 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Internal Revenue Service an Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the ‘IRS CIO’) who shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service.

“(2) CENTRALIZED RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service (and the Secretary) shall act through the IRS CIO with respect to all development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service. Any reference in this subsection to the IRS CIO which directs the IRS CIO to take any action, or to assume any responsibility, shall be treated as a reference to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service acting through the IRS CIO.

“(3) GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The IRS CIO shall—

“(A) be responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,

“(B) ensure that the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service is secure and integrated,

“(C) maintain operational control of all information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,

“(D) be the principal advocate for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service, and

“(E) consult with the Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that the information technology acquired for the Internal Revenue Service is consistent with—

“(i) the goals and requirements specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D), and

“(ii) the strategic plan developed under paragraph (4).

“(4) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The IRS CIO shall develop and implement a multiyear strategic plan for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service. Such plan shall—

“(i) include performance measurements of such technology and of the implementation of such plan,

“(ii) include a plan for an integrated enterprise architecture of the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service,

“(iii) include and take into account the resources needed to accomplish such plan,

“(iv) take into account planned major acquisitions of information technology by the Internal Revenue Service, including Customer Account Data Engine 2 and the Enterprise Case Management System, and

“(v) align with the needs and strategic plan of the Internal Revenue Service.

“(B) PLAN UPDATES.—The IRS CIO shall, not less frequently than annually, review and update the strategic plan under subparagraph (A) (including the plan for an integrated enterprise architecture described in subpara-

graph (A)(ii) to take into account the development of new information technology and the needs of the Internal Revenue Service.

“(5) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—

“(A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘information technology’ has the meaning given such term by section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

“(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—Any reference in this subsection to the Internal Revenue Service includes a reference to all components of the Internal Revenue Service, including—

“(i) the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate,

“(ii) the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and

“(iii) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary with respect to information technology related to matters described in subsection (b)(3)(B), the Office of the Chief Counsel.”

(b) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION OF THE CUSTOMER ACCOUNT DATA ENGINE 2 AND ENTERPRISE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall enter into a contract with an independent reviewer to verify and validate the implementation plans (including the performance milestones and cost estimates included in such plans) developed for the Customer Account Data Engine 2 and the Enterprise Case Management System.

(2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—Such contract shall require that such verification and validation be completed not later than the date which is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) APPLICATION TO PHASES OF CADE 2.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to phase 1 of the Customer Account Data Engine 2 and shall apply separately to each other phase.

(B) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING PLANS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall complete the development of plans for all phases of the Customer Account Data Engine 2.

(C) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION OF PLANS.—In the case of any phase after phase 2 of the Customer Account Data Engine 2, paragraph (2) shall be applied by substituting “the date on which the plan for such phase was completed” for “the date of the enactment of this Act”.

(c) COORDINATION OF IRS CIO AND CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service shall—

(A) identify all significant IRS information technology acquisitions and provide written notification to the Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the “IRS CIO”) of each such acquisition in advance of such acquisition, and

(B) regularly consult with the IRS CIO regarding acquisitions of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service, including meeting with the IRS CIO regarding such acquisitions upon request.

(2) SIGNIFICANT IRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “significant IRS information technology acquisitions” means—

(A) any acquisition of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service in excess of \$1,000,000, and

(B) such other acquisitions of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service (or categories of such acquisitions) as the IRS CIO, in consultation with the Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service, may identify.

(3) SCOPE.—Terms used in this subsection which are also used in section 7803(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended by subsection (a)) shall have the same meaning as when used in such section.

SEC. 202. DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE ACCOUNTS AND PORTALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall—

(1) develop secure individualized online accounts to provide services to taxpayers and their designated return preparers, including obtaining taxpayer information, making payment of taxes, sharing documentation, and (to the extent feasible) addressing and correcting issues, and

- (2) develop a process for the acceptance of tax forms, and supporting documentation, in digital or other electronic format.
- (b) ELECTRONIC SERVICES TREATED AS SUPPLEMENTAL; APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the processes described in subsection (a)—
- (1) are a supplement to, and not a replacement for, other services provided by the Internal Revenue Service to taxpayers, including face-to-face taxpayer assistance and services provided by phone, and
 - (2) comply with applicable security standards and guidelines.
- (c) PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING ONLINE ACCOUNTS.—
- (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written report describing the Secretary’s plan for developing the secure individualized online accounts described in subsection (a)(1). Such plan shall address the feasibility of taxpayers addressing and correcting issues through such accounts and whether access to such accounts should be restricted and in what manner.
 - (2) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall make every reasonable effort to make the secure individualized online accounts described in subsection (a)(1) available to taxpayers by December 31, 2023.

SEC. 203. INTERNET PLATFORM FOR FORM 1099 FILINGS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall make available an Internet website or other electronic media, with a user interface and functionality similar to the Business Services Online Suite of Services provided by the Social Security Administration, that will provide access to resources and guidance provided by the Internal Revenue Service and will allow persons to—
- (1) prepare and file Forms 1099,
 - (2) prepare Forms 1099 for distribution to recipients other than the Internal Revenue Service, and
 - (3) maintain a record of completed and submitted Forms 1099.
- (b) ELECTRONIC SERVICES TREATED AS SUPPLEMENTAL; APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the services described in subsection (a)—
- (1) are a supplement to, and not a replacement for, other services provided by the Internal Revenue Service to taxpayers, and
 - (2) comply with applicable security standards and guidelines.

TITLE III—MODERNIZATION OF CONSENT-BASED INCOME VERIFICATION SYSTEM

SEC. 301. DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION FOR THIRD-PARTY INCOME VERIFICATION.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the close of the 2-year period described in subsection (d)(1), the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall implement a program to ensure that any qualified disclosure—
- (1) is fully automated and accomplished through the Internet, and
 - (2) is accomplished in as close to real-time as is practicable.
- (b) QUALIFIED DISCLOSURE.—For purposes of this section, the term “qualified disclosure” means a disclosure under section 6103(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of returns or return information by the Secretary to a person seeking to verify the income or creditworthiness of a taxpayer who is a borrower in the process of a loan application.
- (c) APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the program described in subsection (a) complies with applicable security standards and guidelines.
- (d) USER FEE.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—During the 2-year period beginning on the first day of the 6th calendar month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assess and collect a fee for qualified disclosures (in addition to any other fee assessed and collected for such disclosures) at such rates as the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover the costs related to implementing the program described in subsection (a), including the costs of any necessary infrastructure or technology.
 - (2) DEPOSIT OF COLLECTIONS.—Amounts received from fees assessed and collected under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in, and credited to, an account solely for the purpose of carrying out the activities described in subsection (a).

Such amounts shall be available to carry out such activities without need of further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 302. LIMIT REDISCLOSURES AND USES OF CONSENT-BASED DISCLOSURES OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6103(c) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Persons designated by the taxpayer under this subsection to receive return information shall not use the information for any purpose other than the express purpose for which consent was granted and shall not disclose return information to any other person without the express permission of, or request by, the taxpayer.”.

(b) **APPLICATION OF PENALTIES.**—Section 6103(a)(3) is amended by inserting “subsection (c),” after “return information under”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

SEC. 401. ELECTRONIC FILING OF RETURNS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6011(e)(2)(A) is amended by striking “250” and inserting “the applicable number of”.

(b) **APPLICABLE NUMBER.**—Section 6011(e) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) **APPLICABLE NUMBER.**—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the applicable number shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

“(A) in the case of calendar years before 2020, 250,

“(B) in the case of calendar year 2020, 100, and

“(C) in the case of calendar years after 2020, 10.”.

(c) **RETURNS FILED BY A TAX RETURN PREPARER.**—Section 6011(e)(3) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) **EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PREPARERS LOCATED IN AREAS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement of subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines, on the basis of an application by the tax return preparer, that the preparer cannot meet such requirement by reason of being located in a geographic area which does not have access to internet service (other than dial-up or satellite service).”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS.

Section 6061(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **PUBLISHED GUIDANCE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall publish guidance as appropriate to define and implement any waiver of the signature requirements or any method adopted under paragraph (1).

“(B) **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall publish guidance to establish uniform standards and procedures for the acceptance of taxpayers’ signatures appearing in electronic form with respect to any request for disclosure of a taxpayer’s return or return information under section 6103(c) to a practitioner or any power of attorney granted by a taxpayer to a practitioner.

“(C) **PRACTITIONER.**—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term ‘practitioner’ means any individual in good standing who is regulated under section 330 of title 31, United States Code.”.

SEC. 403. PAYMENT OF TAXES BY DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS.

Section 6311(d)(2) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The preceding sentence shall not apply to the extent that the Secretary ensures that any such fee or other consideration is fully recouped by the Secretary in the form of fees paid to the Secretary by persons paying taxes imposed under subtitle A with credit, debit, or charge cards pursuant to such contract. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall seek to minimize the amount of any fee or other consideration that the Secretary pays under any such contract.”.

I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

A. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The “21st Century IRS Act,” H.R. 5445, as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, would modernize the Internal Revenue Service’s information technology (IT) infrastructure, enhance the role of the agency’s Chief Information Officer (CIO), and provide additional tools to protect taxpayer information and to combat identity theft tax refund fraud.

B. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Over the past two years, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee has spent significant time reviewing the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) use of information technology (IT). The Subcommittee found that the IRS relies heavily on an ageing IT infrastructure, some of which dates back to the 1960s, to administer the tax system. Additionally, the Committee found that, while the IRS spends approximately \$2.4 billion annually on IT, it continues to struggle with undertaking and completing large IT modernization efforts. These issues result in the waste of billions of taxpayer dollars and time spent maintaining outdated legacy systems rather than deploying newer, more modern systems that are less costly to maintain.

The IRS can no longer afford to continue running antiquated IT systems that are difficult, if not impossible, to maintain. Each year, the IRS is relying on fewer and fewer employees with the expertise to update outdated software. Failure of one of these legacy systems could be disastrous, potentially resulting in a range of issues from an inability to collect taxes to significant loss of taxpayer data. A lack of up-to-date, modern IRS IT systems also negatively impacts taxpayers seeking to comply with their tax responsibilities, often resulting in frustrating, prolonged interactions with the IRS that could be more easily and seamlessly resolved online. In addition, like many other public and private entities, the IRS has experienced cyberattacks and fraud schemes that seek to exploit stolen taxpayer information in order to steal tax refunds.

This bipartisan legislation seeks to modernize the IRS and improve the ease and efficiency of the taxpayer experience when filing taxes, retrieving information, resolving issues, and making payments. The legislation also includes a number of provisions to strengthen the IRS’s ability to proactively combat identity theft tax refund fraud.

C. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Background

H.R. 5445 was introduced on April 10, 2018 and was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee action

The Committee on Ways and Means marked up H.R. 5445, the “21st Century IRS Act” on April 11, 2018, and ordered the bill, as amended, favorably reported (with a quorum being present).

Committee hearings and roundtables

During the 115th Congress, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee held five hearings and four roundtables on reforming the IRS in terms of modernizing IT for a better taxpayer experience. Oversight Subcommittee hearings included:

- April 26, 2017: Examining the 2017 Tax Filing Season;
- May 19, 2017: IRS Reform: Lessons Learned from the National Taxpayer Advocate;
- October 4, 2017: IRS Reform: Challenges to Modernizing IT Infrastructure;
- December 13, 2017: IRS Reform: The Taxpayer Experience; and
- January 30, 2018: Member Day Hearing on Legislation to Improve Tax Administration.

Roundtables included:

- June 22, 2017: Reforming the IRS—Lessons Learned from 1998, Roundtable Part I;
- July 12, 2017: Reforming the IRS—Lessons Learned from 1998, Roundtable Part II;
- October 12, 2017: IRS Security Summit; and
- January 17, 2018: Briefing on the IRS's Technology Roadmap.

II. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

TITLE I—CYBER SECURITY AND IDENTITY PROTECTION

1. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT TAX REFUND FRAUD (SEC. 101 OF THE BILL)

PRESENT LAW

The Security Summit, formed in 2015, is a partnership of the IRS, State tax agencies, and the private-sector tax industry to address tax refund fraud caused by identity theft. In 2016, the Security Summit group members identified and agreed to share more than 20 data components relating to Federal and State returns to improve fraud detection and prevention. For example, group members are sharing computer device identification data tied to the return's origin, as well as the improper or repetitive use of the numbers that identify the internet address from where the return originates.¹ Tax software providers agreed to enhance identity requirements and strengthen validation procedures for new and returning customers to protect their accounts from theft. Along with the IRS, 40 State departments of revenue, and 21 tax industry members have signed onto a Memorandum of Understanding regarding roles, responsibilities and information sharing pathways among the IRS, States and industry.²

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes the Security Summit has been a successful and productive venue for governmental and private organiza-

¹ Internal Revenue Service, *2016 Security Summit: Protecting Taxpayers from Identity Theft Tax Refund Fraud* (June 2016) at p. 3. https://www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/6_2016_security_summit_report.pdf.

² *Ibid.*

tions to work together to address the growing problem of identity theft tax refund fraud. The Committee is encouraged by the proactive steps that the IRS has taken to address this issue and wants to ensure that these efforts continue going forward.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision requires the Secretary to work collaboratively with the public and private sectors to protect taxpayers from identity theft tax refund fraud.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ELECTRONIC TAX ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING IDENTITY THEFT AND REFUND FRAUD (SEC. 102 OF THE BILL)

PRESENT LAW

The IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (“RRA98”) authorized the Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (“ETAAC”). ETAAC was intended to provide input to the IRS on electronic tax administration. ETAAC’s responsibilities involve researching, analyzing, and making recommendations on a variety of electronic tax administration issues. Pursuant to RRA98, ETAAC reports to Congress annually concerning:

- IRS progress on reaching its goal to electronically receive 80 percent of tax and information returns;
- Legislative changes assisting the IRS in meeting the 80 percent goal;
- Status of the IRS strategic plan for electronic tax administration; and
- Effects of e-filing tax and information returns on small businesses and the self-employed.

According to the latest annual report, ETAAC members come from State departments of revenue, large tax preparation companies, solo tax practitioners, tax software companies, financial services industry and low income and consumer advocacy groups.³

REASONS FOR CHANGE

ETAAC’s focus on electronic tax administration issues makes it a suitable entity to examine and make recommendations regarding methods to address identity theft and refund fraud after evaluating various stakeholder viewpoints. ETAAC has already amended its charter to focus on the issue of identity theft and refund fraud. This provision codifies the recent changes to ETAAC’s charter and ensures that ETAAC will continue to examine this issue going forward. The Committee also finds ETAAC’s annual reports to Congress, which include recommendations to improve the work of the Security Summit, to be valuable sources of information and would like to ensure that this work continues.

³ Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee, Publication 3415, *Annual Report to Congress* (June 2017), <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3415.pdf>.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision requires ETAAC to study (including through organized public forums) and make recommendations to the Secretary regarding methods to prevent identity theft and refund fraud.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

3. INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER (SEC. 103 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6103 OF THE CODE ⁴)

PRESENT LAW

Information Sharing and Analysis Center

The Security Summit, formed in 2015, is a partnership of the IRS, State tax agencies, and the private-sector tax industry to address tax refund fraud caused by identity theft. In 2016, the Security Summit created an Identity Theft Tax Refund Fraud Information Sharing and Analysis Center (“ISAC”).⁵ The ISAC is a secure, web-based venue for States, industry and the IRS to share and exchange information. The ISAC enables the IRS and the States to work together with external third parties to serve as an early warning system for tax refund fraud, identity theft schemes, and cybersecurity issues. A third-party contractor, hosts, maintains, and facilitates the web-based leads reporting and information sharing process for the ISAC.

Confidentiality and disclosure of return information

As a general rule, returns and return information are confidential and cannot be disclosed unless authorized by the Code.⁶ The definition of return information is very broad and generally includes any information received or collected by the IRS with respect to liability under the Code of any person for any tax, penalty, interest or offense. The term “return information” includes, among other items:

a taxpayer’s identity, the nature, source, or amount of his income, payments, receipts, deductions, exemptions, credits, assets, liabilities, net worth, tax liability, tax withheld, deficiencies, overassessments, or tax payments, whether the taxpayer’s return was, is being, or will be examined or subject to other investigation or processing, **or any other data, received by, recorded by, prepared by, furnished to, or collected by the Secretary with respect to a return or with respect to the determination of the existence, or possible existence, of liability (or the amount thereof) of any person under this title for any tax, penalty, interest, fine, forfeiture, or other imposition, or offense . . . (emphasis added)**⁷

⁴All section references herein are to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (herein “Code”), unless otherwise stated.

⁵Internal Revenue Service, *2016 Security Summit: Protecting Taxpayers from Identity Theft Tax Refund Fraud* (June 2016) https://www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/6_2016_security_summit_report.pdf.sec.

⁶Sec. 6103(a).

⁷Sec. 6103(b)(2)(A).

There are several exceptions to the general rule of confidentiality. Such exceptions include provisions to permit disclosures to State tax administration officials, for IRS employees and officers to make investigative disclosures, and rules to allow one authorized party to disclose to another authorized party with the permission of the Commissioner.⁸

The IRS exchanges confidential information with State tax agencies under the authority of section 6103(d). The disclosures are made pursuant to written request from the head of the State tax agency, which designates the State tax officials who can receive the information. The information can only be used for State tax purposes, not for general State civil or criminal law enforcement. The State officials can redisclose the information to other officers and employees of the State tax agency, the agency's legal representative, or the agency's contractors (but only for State tax administration purposes). The IRS uses this authority to alert State tax administration officials to tax refund fraud schemes.

IRS officers and employees may disclose return information to the extent that such disclosure is necessary in obtaining information, which is not otherwise reasonably available, with respect to the correct determination of tax, liability for tax, or the amount to be collected, or with respect to the enforcement of any other provision of Title 26. Such disclosures are to be made only in such situations and under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.⁹ This provision generally cannot be used to provide confidential return information on an industry-wide basis to alert return preparers to potential fraud schemes.

Under the Treasury regulations, returns or return information that have been obtained by a Federal, State, or local agency, or its agents or contractors, in accordance with section 6103 (the first recipient) may be disclosed by the first recipient to another recipient authorized to receive such returns or return information under section 6103 (the second recipient).¹⁰ The disclosure must be approved by the Commissioner of the IRS. The second recipient may receive only such returns or return information as authorized by the provision of section 6103 applicable to such recipient and only for a purpose authorized by and subject to any conditions imposed by section 6103, including applicable safeguards.

Preparer disclosure penalties

The Code provides for a civil penalty for a tax return preparer who (i) discloses any information furnished to the preparer for, or in connection with, the preparation of such return or (ii) uses such information for any purpose other than to prepare or assist in preparing any such return.¹¹ There is a corresponding criminal penalty under section 7216 of the Code for knowing or reckless conduct. The same exceptions from the imposition of the criminal penalty apply for purposes of the civil penalty. In general, the penalty does not apply for disclosures permitted by the Code or pursuant to an order of a court. Further, the penalty does not apply to the

⁸Sec. 6103(d) (disclosures to States), 6103(k)(6)(investigative disclosures) and the Treasury regulations under sec. 6103(p)(2)(B).

⁹Sec. 6103(k)(6); Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(k)(6)-1.

¹⁰Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(p)(2)(B)-1.

¹¹Sec. 6713.

use of information in the preparation of, or in connection with the preparation of State and local tax returns and declarations of estimated tax of the person to whom the information relates. The Code also permits the Secretary to provide additional exceptions through regulations. The Secretary has prescribed by regulation the circumstances not involving tax preparation in which disclosure and use of a taxpayer's information by a tax return preparer is permitted.

Penalties for the unauthorized disclosure or inspection of return information

The unauthorized disclosure of a return or return information is a felony punishable by fine of up to \$5,000, five years imprisonment or both. Unauthorized inspection is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, one year imprisonment, or both.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

As the profitability and ease of identity theft grows, the threat to the tax system from fraudulent tax refund filings increases. While the IRS has traditionally been more reactionary to external threats, the Committee is encouraged to see the IRS look for new and alternative ways to combat identity theft tax refund fraud, particularly through its participation in the ISAC pilot. The Committee believes there is a need for all parts of the tax system, including the IRS, State tax administrators, and return preparers, to work proactively together to combat identity theft tax refund fraud. To be effective in this collaboration, stakeholders with the ability to guard the tax system need to be able to receive the necessary information about potential risks quickly. Therefore, the Committee believes it is appropriate to provide a narrowly tailored exception to the general rules of confidentiality to facilitate alerts of potential tax refund fraud schemes and cyber security threats to the IRS.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

ISAC participation and performance metrics

The provision provides that the Secretary may participate in an information sharing and analysis center. The purpose of such participation is to centralize, standardize and enhance data compilation and analysis to facilitate sharing actionable data and information with respect to identity theft tax refund fraud. The provision requires the Secretary to develop metrics for measuring the success of such center in detecting and preventing identity theft tax refund fraud.

Disclosure of return information to certain ISAC participants

In general

The provision authorizes the disclosure of specified return information to ISAC participants who have entered into a written information sharing agreement with the Secretary. Under such procedures and subject to such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose specified return information to specified ISAC participants if such disclosure is in furtherance of effective Federal tax administration relating to the following: (1)

the detection or prevention of identity theft tax refund fraud; (2) validation of taxpayer identity; (3) authentication of taxpayer returns; or (4) the detection or prevention of cybersecurity threats to the IRS.

Terminology

Specified ISAC participant

The term “specified ISAC participant” means any person designated by the Secretary as having primary responsibility for a function performed by the ISAC and any return preparer (or other person) subject to section 7216 and who is a participant in the ISAC. A person is only a specified ISAC participant if such person has entered into a written information sharing agreement with the Secretary. The information sharing agreement must set forth the terms and conditions for the disclosure of information to such person, including the requirements imposed on such person for the protection and safeguarding of such information. The information sharing agreement must require that recipients of return information under the provision are required to affirmatively report to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration any unauthorized access or disclosure of information and any breaches of any system holding the information.

Specified return information

For purposes of the provision, the term “specified return information” means, in the case of a return filed electronically which is in connection with a case of potential identity theft tax refund fraud, return information related to the electronic filing characteristics of such return. Such characteristics include: internet protocol address, device identification, email domain name, speed of completion, method of authentication, refund method, and such other return information relating to the electronic filing characteristics of such return as the Secretary may prescribe. In addition, with respect to a return prepared by a tax return preparer in connection with a case of potential identity theft refund fraud, “specified return information” also includes identifying information with respect to such tax return preparer, including the preparer taxpayer identification number (“PTIN”) and electronic filer identification number (“EFIN”) of such preparer.

With respect to a return for which identity theft refund fraud has been confirmed by the Secretary (pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may provide), “specified return information” also includes the name and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer as it appears on the return, and any bank account and routing information provided for making a refund in connection with such return.

Finally, in the case of any cybersecurity threat to the IRS, information similar to that associated with cases of potential identity theft refund fraud (e.g. electronic characteristics and preparer identifying information) are considered specified return information with respect to such threat.

Restriction on use of disclosed information

Any return information received by a specified ISAC participant under the provision is to be used only for the purposes of and to the extent necessary in (1) performing the function the person is designated to perform with respect to the ISAC, (2) facilitating authorized disclosures to return preparers who are specified ISAC participants, and (3) facilitating disclosures authorized under section 6103(d) to State tax authorities who are participants in the ISAC. Return information received by specified ISAC participants who are return preparers is treated for purposes of section 7216 as information furnished to such person for, or in connection with, the preparation of a return of tax.

Data protection, safeguards, penalties

As noted above, to be a specified ISAC participant, the person must enter into an information sharing agreement that includes, among other responsibilities, requirements for the protection and safeguarding of information received under the provision. The return information disclosed under the provision is subject to such protections and safeguards as the Secretary may require by regulations, other guidance, or written information sharing agreement. Recipients of return information under the provision are subject to civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized disclosure or inspection of returns or return information.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is generally effective on the date of enactment. The disclosure provisions are effective for disclosures made on or after the date of enactment.

4. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTORS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY
SAFEGUARDS (SEC. 104 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6103 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

Section 6103 permits the disclosure of returns and return information to State agencies, as well as to other Federal agencies for specified purposes. Section 6103(p)(4) requires, as a condition of receiving returns and return information, that State agencies (and others) provide safeguards as prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury by regulation that are necessary or appropriate to protect the confidentiality of returns or return information.¹² It also requires that a report be furnished to the Secretary at such time and containing such information as prescribed by the Secretary regarding the procedures established and utilized for ensuring the confidentiality of returns and return information.¹³ After an administrative review, the Secretary may take such actions as are necessary to ensure these requirements are met, including the refusal to disclose returns and return information.¹⁴

Under present law, employees of a State tax agency may disclose returns and return information to contractors for tax administra-

¹² Sec. 6103(p)(4)(D).

¹³ Sec. 6103(p)(4)(E).

¹⁴ Sec. 6103(p)(4) (flush language) and (7); Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(p)(7)-1.

tion purposes.¹⁵ These disclosures can be made only to the extent necessary to procure contractually equipment, other property, or services, related to tax administration.¹⁶

The contractors can make redisclosures of returns and return information to their employees as necessary to accomplish the tax administration purposes of the contract, but only to contractor personnel whose duties require disclosure.¹⁷ Treasury regulations prohibit redisclosure to anyone other than contractor personnel without the written approval of the IRS.¹⁸

By regulation, all contracts must provide that the contractor will comply with all applicable restrictions and conditions for protecting confidentiality prescribed by regulation, published rules or procedures, or written communication to the contractor.¹⁹ Failure to comply with such restrictions or conditions may cause the IRS to terminate or suspend the duties under the contract or the disclosures of returns and return information to the contractor.²⁰ In addition, the IRS can suspend disclosures to the State tax agency until the IRS determines that the conditions are or will be satisfied.²¹ The IRS may take such other actions as are deemed necessary to ensure that such conditions or requirements are or will be satisfied.²²

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee notes the increasing use of contractors by government agencies to perform the work of the government. In the Committee's view, the IRS has insufficient resources to monitor the compliance of every contractor in addition to its other duties. Further, the Committee finds that it is appropriate to require that Federal, State, and local agency recipients of tax information monitor and certify that their contractors and other agents have in place adequate safeguards to protect this information.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision requires that a State, local, or Federal agency conduct on-site reviews every three years of all of its contractors or other agents receiving Federal returns and return information. If the duration of the contract or agreement is less than three years, a review is required at the mid-point of the contract. The purpose of the review is to assess the contractor's efforts to safeguard Federal returns and return information. This review is intended to cover secure storage, restricting access, computer security, and other safeguards deemed appropriate by the Secretary. Under the

¹⁵ Sec. 6103(n) and Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(a). "Tax administration" includes "the administration, management, conduct, direction, and supervision of the execution and application of internal revenue laws or related statutes (or equivalent laws and statutes of a State) . . ." Sec. 6103(b)(4).

¹⁶ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6013(n)-1(a). Such services include the processing, storage, transmission or reproduction of such returns or return information, the programming, maintenance, repair, or testing of equipment or other property, or the providing of other services for purposes of tax administration.

¹⁷ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(a) and (b). A disclosure is necessary if such procurement or the performance of such services cannot otherwise be reasonably, properly, or economically accomplished without such disclosure. Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(b). The regulations limit the quantity of information to that needed to perform the contract.

¹⁸ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(a).

¹⁹ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(d).

²⁰ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(d)(1).

²¹ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(d)(2).

²² Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(n)-1(d).

provision, the State, local, or Federal agency is required to submit a report of its findings to the IRS and certify annually that such contractors and other agents are in compliance with the requirements to safeguard the confidentiality of Federal returns and return information. The certification is required to include the name and address of each contractor or other agent with the agency, the duration of the contract, and a description of the contract or agreement with the State, local, or Federal agency.

The provision does not apply to contracts for purposes of Federal tax administration.

This provision does not alter or affect in any way the right of the IRS to conduct safeguard reviews of State, local, or Federal agency contractors or other agents. It also does not affect the right of the IRS to initially approve the safeguard language in the contract or agreement and the safeguards in place prior to any disclosures made in connection with such contracts or agreements.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective for disclosures made after December 31, 2022.

5. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS (SEC. 105 OF THE BILL)

PRESENT LAW

The Secretary is not currently required by Congress to examine expansion of electronic fund transfers.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee is interested in creating safe, efficient, and innovative ways for taxpayers to receive their federal income tax refunds electronically. The Committee believes that the report will be helpful in accomplishing these goals.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment, the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, in coordination with the Bureau of Fiscal Service and the Internal Revenue Service, and in consultation with private sector financial institutions, is required to submit a written report to Congress describing how the IRS can utilize new payment platforms to increase the number of tax refunds paid by electronic funds transfer. The report is required to consider the interests of reducing identity theft tax refund fraud, reducing the IRS's costs in delivering tax refunds, the costs and any associated fees charged to taxpayers (including monthly and point-of-service fees) to access their tax refunds, the impact on individuals who do not have access to financial accounts or institutions, and ensuring payments are made to accounts that comply with the Bank Secrecy Act²³ and the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001.²⁴ The report is required to include legislative recommendations necessary to accomplish these goals.

²³The Bank Secrecy Act, 31 U.S.C. secs. 5311–5332.

²⁴Pub. L. No. 107–56.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. MANAGEMENT OF IRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SEC. 201 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 7803 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

The Code describes duties and responsibilities for the Commissioner, the Chief Counsel, and the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate of the IRS.²⁵ It does not presently enumerate duties and responsibilities of an IRS Chief Information Officer (“IRS CIO”).

Also, the Code does not explicitly provide for development and implementation of a multiyear strategic plan for the information technology needs of the IRS, and does not require verification and validation of major acquisitions of information technology by the IRS, including the Customer Account Data Engine 2 (“CADE 2”) and the Enterprise Case Management System (ECM).

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes it is important for the IRS to afford taxpayers peace of mind that their most sensitive information is being responsibly protected by their government, using the latest technology. The Committee believes the appointment of an IRS CIO with operational control of all information technology infrastructure for the IRS, and responsibility for the development and implementation of realistic multiyear strategic plans, in conjunction with the verification and validation of major acquisitions of information technology are important components in the development, maintenance, and implementation of information technology that is secure and integrated.

The Committee also has concerns about audits from the IRS’s oversight bodies, which report that offices or divisions within the IRS, other than the Office of Information Technology, have procured solutions that the Committee considers to be within the definition of IT, but for which the Office of Information Technology was not notified or consulted. The Committee believes that strengthening of the roles and responsibilities of the CIO and clarifying the definition of “information technology” will assist the IRS in better administering and overseeing its IT.

The Committee believes that it is important to mandate the independent verification and validation of CADE 2 and ECM plans to ensure that the planning for each of these projects is reasonable and achievable. The Committee notes that the IRS has struggled for years to complete both of these projects. CADE 2, the IRS’s replacement for the Individual Master File that houses individuals’ tax account data, initially began development in 2009 with an estimated completion in 2015. However, to date, the IRS has spent almost \$2 billion on this project and is not able to provide a completion date for all phases of the project. While the IRS initiated the ECM project in 2015, after initially selecting and procuring an ECM solution, the IRS later determined that this solution could not

²⁵ Sec. 7803.

be deployed enterprise-wide. Both of these systems are central to the success of the IRS in meeting its mission. If Congress is to continue to support and fund these programs, certainty is needed that the IRS will be able to plan for and implement these programs.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

Under the provision, the Administrator²⁶ of the IRS will appoint an IRS CIO. The Administrator and the Secretary will act through the IRS CIO with respect to the development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the IRS. The IRS CIO will be responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the IRS, for ensuring that the information technology of the IRS is secure and integrated, for maintaining operational control of all information technology for the IRS, for acting as the principal advocate for the information technology needs of the IRS, and for consulting with the Chief Procurement Officer of the IRS to ensure that the information technology acquired for the IRS is consistent with the strategic plan.

The IRS CIO will also be responsible for developing and implementing a multiyear strategic plan for the information technology needs of the IRS. This plan should include performance measures of such technology and its implementation, and a plan for an integrated enterprise architecture of the information technology of the IRS. It should take into account the resources needed to accomplish such a plan, as well as planned major acquisitions of information technology by the IRS, including CADE 2 and the ECM System. The plan should also align with the needs and strategic plan of the IRS. The IRS CIO will review and update this plan at least once a year, taking into account the development of new information technology and the needs of the IRS.

Under the provision, the Administrator of the IRS will develop plans for each phase except phase one of CADE 2 and enter into a contract with an independent reviewer to verify and validate implementation plans developed for each phase except phase one of CADE 2 and for the ECM System. Furthermore, the Chief Procurement Officer of the IRS is directed to regularly consult with the IRS CIO and to identify all significant IRS information technology acquisitions in excess of \$1,000,000, providing written notification to the IRS CIO of each such acquisition in advance of acquisition.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is generally effective on the date of enactment.

The verification and validation of phase two of CADE 2 and the ECM System are to be completed within one year after the date of enactment. The development of plans for all subsequent phases of CADE 2 should be completed within one year after the date of enactment and the verification and validation of each phase should be completed within one year after the date on which the plan for such phase is completed.

²⁶ “Administrator” is used in lieu of “Commissioner” to reflect the proposed change made in H.R. 5444, the “Taxpayer First Act,” contemporaneously reported favorably out of Committee.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE ACCOUNTS AND PORTALS (SEC. 202 OF THE BILL)

PRESENT LAW

The Code does not expressly provide for the development of individualized online accounts.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes it is important for the IRS to provide customer service akin to that expected in the private sector by treating taxpayers with respect, ensuring that taxpayers can ask questions and receive assistance, and incorporating the latest technology, including online services, call-back options, and improved support on the phone. The Committee believes the development of secure, individualized online accounts will improve customer service to taxpayers by allowing taxpayers and their designated return preparers to access a variety of services including, for example, obtaining copies of their tax information, paying taxes, sharing documentation, and addressing and correcting issues.

The Committee notes that the IRS has been slow to adopt online accounts as an additional means through which to provide taxpayer services. Furthermore, the online services currently offered are disjointed and not always easily accessible. Similar to the electronic filing goal laid out in RRA98, Congress has included this provision to signal to the IRS the need to provide robust, online services to taxpayers and their designated preparers as an alternatives service channel. The Committee believes that doing so would free up much needed resources to provide phone and in-person services to those who would prefer to use them.

During hearings held on this issue, the Committee heard multiple reports of taxpayers or their preparers who were unable to submit needed forms and documentation to the IRS electronically, creating additional burdens on taxpayers and their preparers. The Committee also notes that the IRS currently has a number of forms, including those for amended returns, which cannot be filed electronically with the IRS. Those forms, even if prepared electronically, must then be printed and mailed to the IRS. In an effort to reduce taxpayer burden and shorten the time in which the IRS receives and processes forms and documents, the Committee would like the IRS to develop a portal for the receipt of forms and documentation.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

Under the provision, the Secretary will develop secure, individualized online accounts to provide services to taxpayers and their designated return preparers, including, for example, obtaining taxpayer information, making payment of taxes, sharing documentation, and addressing and correcting issues. The Secretary will also develop a process for accepting returns of tax and supporting documentation in electronic format. These electronic services should be a supplement to, and not a replacement for, other services provided by the IRS to taxpayers, including face-to-face taxpayer assistance and services provided by phone. They should also comply with applicable security standards and guidelines. These electronic serv-

ices are intended to enhance taxpayers' options for submitting their tax forms and supporting documents in a secure and cost-effective manner for faster, more efficient interactions with the IRS.

The IRS will formulate a plan for development of online accounts and report the plan to Congress within a year of enactment. The IRS should consider as part of this plan, the feasibility of taxpayers addressing and correcting issues through such accounts, and whether access to these accounts should be restricted in any way.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Not later than one year after the date of enactment, the Secretary will submit to Congress a written report describing the plan for development of online accounts.

The Secretary will make every reasonable effort to make secure individualized online accounts available to taxpayers by December 31, 2023.

3. INTERNET PLATFORM FOR FORM 1099 FILINGS (SEC. 203 OF THE BILL)

PRESENT LAW

The Code does not presently require the IRS to make available an internet platform for the preparation or filing of information returns, such as the series, Form 1099.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes that it is desirable to provide a simple and secure manner for small businesses to file critical tax information returns electronically. The Committee further believes that such a secure manner of filing can be modeled on an existing online platform, Social Security Administration ("SSA") Business Services Online. The Committee believes that an online platform for submitting information returns to the IRS, similar to SSA Business Services Online, could improve compliance of small business taxpayers while reducing their administrative burden. Businesses would be able to prepare and file information returns such as IRS Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, online while preparing the payee statements and creating necessary business records.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision requires the Secretary of the Treasury (or his or her delegate) to make available, by January 1, 2023, an internet website or other electronic medium (the "website"), with a user interface and functionality similar to the Business Services Online Suite of Services provided by the Social Security Administration.²⁷ The website will allow persons, with access to resources and guidance provided by the IRS, to prepare, file, and distribute Forms 1099, and maintain a record of completed and submitted Forms 1099. The Secretary is required to ensure that the services provided on the website are not a replacement for services currently provided by the IRS, and that the website comply with applicable security standards.

²⁷ Available at <http://www.ssa.gov/bsowelcome.htm>.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

TITLE III—MODERNIZATION OF CONSENT-BASED INCOME
VERIFICATION SYSTEM

1. DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION FOR THIRD-PARTY IN-
COME VERIFICATION (SEC. 301 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6103 OF THE
CODE)

PRESENT LAW

Disclosure of return information with consent of the taxpayer

As a general rule, returns and return information are confidential and cannot be disclosed unless authorized by Title 26.²⁸ Under section 6103(c), the IRS may disclose the return or return information of a taxpayer to a third party designated by the taxpayer in a request for or consent to such disclosure. Treasury regulations set forth the requirements for such consent.²⁹ A request for consent to disclosure in written form must be a separate written document pertaining solely to the authorized disclosure. At the time the consent is signed and dated by the taxpayer, the written document must indicate: (1) the taxpayer’s taxpayer identity information; (2) the identity of the person(s) to whom disclosure is to be made; (3) the type of return (or specified portion of the return) or return information (and the particular data) that is to be disclosed; and (4) the taxable year(s) covered by the return or return information. The regulations also require that the consent be submitted within 120 days of the date signed and dated by the taxpayer.

INCOME VERIFICATION EXPRESS SERVICE (IVES)

Mortgage lenders and others in the financial community use the IRS’s Income Verification Express Service (IVES) to confirm the income of a borrower during the processing of a loan application.³⁰ Customers of IVES fax to a specified IRS office a signed Form 4506-T (“Request for Transcript of Tax Return”) or Form 4506T-EZ (“Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript”). The IRS provides three types of transcript information as part of the IVES program: (1) a return transcript; (2) Form W-2 (“Wage and Tax Statement”) transcript information; and (3) Form 1099³¹ transcript information.

The IRS imposes a \$2.00 fee for each transcript requested. The requested transcript information is delivered to a secure mailbox on the IRS’s e-Services electronic platform, generally within two to three business days.

²⁸ Sec. 6103(a).

²⁹ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(c)-1. The regulations also specify the requirements for a nonwritten request for information or consent to disclosure to allow a third party to provide information or assistance relating to the taxpayer’s return or to a transaction or other contact between the taxpayer and the IRS.

³⁰ Internal Revenue Service, Income Verification Express Service, <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/income-verification-express-service> (February 26, 2018).

³¹ There are various Forms 1099: Form 1099-B, Proceeds From Broker or Barter Exchange Transactions; Form 1099-DIV, Dividends and Distributions; 1099-INT, Interest Income; 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income; 1099-OID, Original Issue Discount; or 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.

To participate in the IVES program, companies must register and identify employees to act as agents to receive transcripts on the company's behalf.³² According to the Form 13803 ("Application to Participate in the Income Verification Express Services (IVES) Program"), the IRS conducts a suitability check on the applicant and all the principals listed on the application to determine the applicant's suitability to be an IVES participant. After an applicant passes the suitability check and the IRS completes processing the application, the IRS notifies the applicant of acceptance to participate in the program.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes that fully automating the IVES program to allow for electronic submissions, as well as electronic responses, will reduce operational costs, and reduce paperwork burdens for borrowers. The Committee also believes that automating the IVES program will remove unnecessary delays to allow small businesses to access capital more quickly, thereby making borrowing more affordable, easier, and safer for consumers and small business. The Committee intends that the automated process be as close to real time as possible while providing the same data fields currently provided by the non-automated version. While convenience is important, the Committee also wants to emphasize that convenience should not compromise the security of information within the system. Therefore, the Committee believes it is appropriate that the Secretary ensure that the program comply with applicable security standards, such as regulations and guidance provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

As noted above, the current IVES program requires that transcript information requests be submitted to the IRS by fax and then the transcripts are furnished electronically to a secure mailbox. After a specified time period, the provision requires the Secretary (or his delegate) to implement a qualified disclosure program that is fully automated, accomplished through the Internet; and through which disclosures are accomplished in as close to real-time as is practicable. The program is to comply with applicable security standards and guidelines. The term "qualified disclosure" means a disclosure made pursuant to section 6103(c) to a person seeking to verify the income of a taxpayer who is a borrower in the process of a loan application. "Qualified disclosure" is intended as a reference to the types of disclosures made under the current IVES program.

To cover the costs of implementing such a program, for a two-year period beginning six months after the date of enactment, the Secretary is authorized to assess and collect a fee for qualified disclosures at such rates as the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover the costs related to implementing the program, including the costs of any necessary infrastructure or technology. Such fees are in addition to any other fee assessed and collected for such disclo-

³² Applicants also must choose one or more of the reasons listed on the form as the basis for using the IVES program: mortgage services, background check, credit check, banking service, licensing requirement, or other (must be specified).

tures. The amounts received from the fees assessed and collected are to be deposited in and credited to an account solely for the purpose of carrying out the activities associated with implementing the qualified disclosure program. Not later than one year after the close of the two-year period, the Secretary is required to implement the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

2. LIMIT REDISCLOSURES AND USES OF CONSENT-BASED DISCLOSURES OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION (SEC. 302 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6103 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

In general

As a general rule, returns and return information are confidential and cannot be disclosed unless authorized by the Code.³³ Under section 6103(c), a taxpayer may designate in a request or consent to the disclosure by the IRS of his or her return or return information to a third party. Treasury regulations set forth the requirements for such consent.³⁴ The Treasury regulations require that the taxpayer sign and date a written consent. At the time the consent is signed and dated by the taxpayer, the written document must indicate: (1) the taxpayer's identity information; (2) the identity of the person to whom disclosure is to be made; (3) the type of return (or specified portion of the return) or return information (and the particular data) that is to be disclosed; and (4) the taxable year covered by the return or return information. The regulations also require that the consent be submitted within 120 days of the date signed and dated by the taxpayer. Present law does not require that a recipient receiving returns or return information by consent maintain the confidentiality of the information received. Under present law, the recipient is also free to use the information for purposes other than for which the information was solicited from the taxpayer.

Criminal penalties

Under section 7206, it is a felony to willfully make and subscribe any document that contains or is verified by a written declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury and which the maker or subscriber does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter.³⁵ Upon conviction, such person may be fined up to \$100,000 (\$500,000 in the case of a corporation) or imprisoned up to three years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

Under section 7213, criminal penalties apply to: (1) willful unauthorized disclosures of returns and return information by Federal and State employees and other persons; (2) the offering of any item of material value in exchange for a return or return information and the receipt of such information pursuant to such an offer; and (3) the unauthorized disclosure of return information received by

³³ Sec. 6103(a).

³⁴ Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(c)-1.

³⁵ Sec. 7206(1).

certain shareholders under the material interest provision of section 6103. Under section 7213, a court can impose a fine up to \$5,000, up to five years imprisonment, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. If the offense is committed by a Federal employee or officer, the employee or officer will be discharged from office upon conviction.

The willful and unauthorized inspection of returns and return information can subject Federal and State employees and others to a maximum fine of \$1,000, up to a year in prison, or both, in addition to the costs of prosecution. If the offense is committed by a Federal employee or officer, the employee or officer will be discharged from office upon conviction.

Civil damage remedies for unauthorized disclosure or inspection

If a Federal employee makes an unauthorized disclosure or inspection, a taxpayer can bring suit against the United States in Federal district court. If a person other than a Federal employee makes an unauthorized disclosure or inspection, suit may be brought directly against such person. No liability results from a disclosure based on a good faith, but erroneous, interpretation of section 6103. A disclosure or inspection made at the request of the taxpayer will also relieve liability.

Upon a finding of liability, a taxpayer can recover the greater of \$1,000 per act of unauthorized disclosure (or inspection), or the sum of actual damages plus, in the case of an inspection or disclosure that was willful or the result of gross negligence, punitive damages. The taxpayer may also recover the costs of the action and, if found to be a prevailing party, reasonable attorney fees.

The taxpayer has two years from the date of the discovery of the unauthorized inspection or disclosure to bring suit. The IRS is required to notify a taxpayer of an unauthorized inspection or disclosure as soon as practicable after any person is criminally charged by indictment or information for unlawful inspection or disclosure.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee is concerned that information obtained by consent is not subject to the same protection and limits on use as other taxpayer information. The Committee believes that this provision addresses the numerous privacy concerns raised by current law.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision provides that persons designated by the taxpayer to receive return information shall not use the information for any purpose other than the express purpose for which consent was granted, and shall not disclose return information to any other person without the express permission of, or request by, the taxpayer.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective for disclosures made after the date of enactment.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

1. ELECTRONIC FILING OF RETURNS (SEC. 401 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6011 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

In general

The IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (“RRA98”) states a Congressional policy to promote the paperless filing of Federal tax returns. Section 2001(a) of RRA98 set a goal for the IRS to have at least 80 percent of all Federal tax and information returns filed electronically by 2007.³⁶ Section 2001(b) of RRA98 requires the IRS to establish a 10-year strategic plan to eliminate barriers to electronic filing.

Present law requires the Secretary to issue regulations regarding electronic filing and specifies certain limitations on the rules that may be included in such regulations.³⁷ The statute requires that Federal income tax returns prepared by specified tax return preparers be filed electronically,³⁸ and that all partnerships with more than 100 partners be required to file electronically. For taxpayers other than partnerships, the statute prohibits any requirement that persons who file fewer than 250 returns during a calendar year file electronically. With respect to individuals, estates, and trusts, the Secretary may permit, but generally cannot require, electronic filing of income tax returns. In crafting any of these required regulations, the Secretary must take into account the ability of taxpayers to comply at a reasonable cost.

The regulations require corporations that have assets of \$10 million or more and file at least 250 returns during a calendar year to file electronically their Form 1120/1120S income tax returns (U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return/U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation) and Form 990 information returns (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2006. In determining whether the 250 returns threshold is met, income tax, information, excise tax, and employment tax returns filed within one calendar year are counted.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

Consistent with the policy expressed in RRA98, the Committee supports paperless filing as the preferred and most convenient means of filing Federal tax and information returns. Electronic filing produces a number of benefits both for taxpayers and the IRS, including shorter processing times, fewer errors, and better data. The Committee believes that the efficiencies and cost savings achieved through electronic filing justify expanding such requirements. The Committee is aware that present law restricts the IRS’s ability to expand the scope of returns that are required to be filed electronically. The Committee believes that the widespread adop-

³⁶The Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee, the body charged with oversight of IRS progress in reaching that goal projected an overall e-filing rate of 80.1 percent in the 2017 filing season based on all Federal returns. See Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee, *Annual Report to Congress*, June 2017, IRS Pub. 3415, page 5.

³⁷Sec. 6011(e).

³⁸Section 6011(e)(3)(B) defines a “specified tax return preparer” as any return preparer who reasonably expects to file more than 10 individual income tax returns during a calendar year.

tion of computer technology since RRA98 has reduced the additional burden that mandatory e-filing imposes on taxpayers.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision relaxes the current restrictions on the authority of the Secretary to mandate electronic filing based on the number of returns required to be filed by a taxpayer in a given taxable period. First, it phases in a reduction in the threshold requirement that taxpayers have an obligation to file a specified number of returns and statements during a calendar year in order to be subject to a regulatory mandate. That threshold is reduced from 250 to 100 for calendar year 2020, from 100 to 10 for calendar year 2021 and for calendar years thereafter.

Second, the provision authorizes the Secretary to waive the requirement that a Federal income tax return prepared by a specified tax return preparer be filed electronically if a tax return preparer applies for a waiver and demonstrates that the inability to file electronically is due to lack of internet availability (other than dial-up or satellite service) in the geographic location in which the return preparation business is operated.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

2. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS (SEC. 402 OF THE BILL AND SEC. 6061 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

Disclosure of return information by consent of the taxpayer

As a general rule, returns and return information are confidential and cannot be disclosed unless authorized by the Code.³⁹ Under section 6103(c), the IRS may disclose the return or return information of a taxpayer to a third party designated by the taxpayer in a request for or consent to such disclosure. Treasury regulations set forth the requirements for such consent.⁴⁰ A request for consent to disclosure in written form must be a separate written document pertaining solely to the authorized disclosure. At the time the consent is signed and dated by the taxpayer, the written document must indicate (1) the taxpayer's taxpayer identity information; (2) the identity of the person(s) to whom disclosure is to be made; (3) the type of return (or specified portion of the return) or return information (and the particular data) that is to be disclosed; and (4) the taxable year(s) covered by the return or return information. The regulations also require that the consent be submitted within 120 days of the date signed and dated by the taxpayer.

³⁹Sec. 6103(a).

⁴⁰Treas. Reg. sec. 301.6103(c)-1.

Electronic signatures

The Secretary is required to develop procedures for the acceptance of signatures in digital and other electronic form.⁴¹ Until such time as such procedures are in place, the Secretary may waive the requirement of a signature for, or provide for alternative methods of signing or subscribing, a particular type or class of return, declaration, statement or other document required or permitted to be made or written under the internal revenue laws and regulations. The Secretary is required to publish guidance as appropriate to define and implement any waiver of the signature requirements or alternative method of signing or subscribing.

IRS Forms

Form 2848 (Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative) is used to authorize an individual to represent the taxpayer before the IRS. The individual must be eligible to practice before the IRS.

Form 8821 (Tax Information Authorization) authorizes an individual or organization to request and inspect a taxpayer's confidential tax return information. Form 4506-T (Request for Transcript of Tax Return) authorizes an individual or organization to request and inspect transcripts of a taxpayer's confidential return information. These forms do not authorize an individual to represent the taxpayer before the IRS.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

In the private sector, electronic signatures are widely accepted and there are many commercially available options to facilitate the acceptance of electronic signatures. The Committee believes that the establishment of uniform guidance for verification of electronic signatures will reduce operational costs and facilitate practitioner representation.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

For a request for disclosure to a practitioner with consent of the taxpayer, or for any power of attorney granted by a taxpayer to a practitioner, the provision requires the Secretary to publish guidance to establish uniform standards and procedures for the acceptance of taxpayers' signatures appearing in electronic form with respect to such requests or power of attorney. Such guidance must be published within six months of the date of enactment. For purposes of the provision, a "practitioner" means an individual in good standing who is regulated under 31 U.S.C. sec. 330 (relating to practice before the Department of the Treasury).

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

⁴¹Sec. 6061.

3. PAYMENT OF TAXES BY DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS (SEC. 403 OF
THE BILL AND SEC. 6311 OF THE CODE)

PRESENT LAW

The Code generally permits the payment of taxes by commercially acceptable means such as credit cards.⁴² The Secretary may not pay any fee or provide any other consideration in connection with the use of credit, debit, or charge cards for the payment of income taxes.⁴³

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The Committee believes that removing the prohibition on the Secretary paying any fees or provide, any other consideration in connection with the use of credit, debit, or charge cards will allow the IRS to realize benefits similar to those realized by any business that accepts payment by credit card, including a guarantee that the funds will be paid over and a reduction in the costs of handling paper checks. The Committee believes that the proposal could result in increased collections by allowing busy taxpayers to more easily make a payment by credit card over the telephone without having to wait for the IRS to connect them to third party providers.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

The provision removes the prohibition on paying any fees or providing any other consideration in connection with the use of credit, debit, or charge cards for the payment of income taxes to the extent taxpayers paying in this manner are fully responsible for any fees or consideration incurred. The provision requires the Secretary to seek to minimize the amount of any fee or other consideration that the Secretary pays under any contract.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision is effective on the date of enactment.

III. VOTES OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the vote of the Committee on Ways and Means during the markup consideration of H.R. 5445, the “21st Century IRS Act,” on April 11, 2018.

The bill, H.R. 5445, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a voice vote (with a quorum being present).

IV. BUDGET EFFECTS OF THE BILL

A. COMMITTEE ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

In compliance with clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made concerning the effects on the budget of the bill, H.R. 5445, as reported.

The bill, as reported, is to increase Federal fiscal year budget receipts by less than \$500,000 for the period 2018 through 2028.

⁴²Sec. 6311.

⁴³Sec. 6311(d)(2).

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made by the Joint Committee on Taxation with respect to the provisions of the bill amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986: The gross budgetary effect (before incorporating macroeconomic effects) in any fiscal year is less than 0.25 percent of the current projected gross domestic product of the United States for that fiscal year; therefore, the bill is not “major legislation” for purposes of requiring that the estimate include the budgetary effects of changes in economic output, employment, capital stock and other macroeconomic variables.

B. STATEMENT REGARDING NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES BUDGET AUTHORITY

In compliance with clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that the bill involves no new or increased budget authority. The Committee further states that the revenue-reducing tax provision involves a new tax expenditure. See Part IV.A., above.

C. COST ESTIMATE PREPARED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the Congressional Budget Office did not provide a cost estimate for the resolution.

V. OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

A. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated into the description portions of this report.

B. STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the bill contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no statement of general performance goals and objectives for which any measure authorizes funding is required.

C. INFORMATION RELATING TO UNFUNDED MANDATES

This information is provided in accordance with section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-4).

The Committee has determined that the bill does not contain Federal mandates on the private sector. The Committee has determined that the bill does not impose a Federal intergovernmental mandate on State, local, or tribal governments.

D. APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULE XXI 5(b)

Rule XXI 5(b) of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides, in part, that “A bill or joint resolution, amendment, or conference report carrying a Federal income tax rate increase may not be considered as passed or agreed to unless so determined by a vote of not less than three-fifths of the Members voting, a quorum being present.” The Committee has carefully reviewed the bill and states that the bill does not involve any Federal income tax rate increases within the meaning of the rule.

E. TAX COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

Section 4022(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (“IRS Reform Act”) requires the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department) to provide a tax complexity analysis. The complexity analysis is required for all legislation reported by the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, or any committee of conference if the legislation includes a provision that directly or indirectly amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and has widespread applicability to individuals or small businesses.

Pursuant to clause 3(h)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation has determined that a complexity analysis is not required under section 4022(b) of the IRS Reform Act because the bill contains no provisions that amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that have “widespread applicability” to individuals or small businesses, within the meaning of the rule.

F. CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

With respect to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has carefully reviewed the provisions of the bill and states that the provisions of the bill do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits within the meaning of the rule.

G. DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

In compliance with Sec. 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that no provision of the bill establishes or reauthorizes: (1) a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, (2) a program included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or (3) a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, published pursuant to section 6104 of title 31, United States Code.

H. DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

In compliance with Sec. 3(i) of H. Res. 5 (115th Congress), the following statement is made concerning directed rule makings: The Committee advises that the bill requires no directed rule makings within the meaning of such section.

VI. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

A. TEXT OF EXISTING LAW AMENDED OR REPEALED BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e)(1)(A) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the text of each section proposed to be amended or repealed by the bill, as reported, is shown below:

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

* * * * *

Subtitle F—Procedure and Administration

* * * * *

CHAPTER 61—INFORMATION AND RETURNS

* * * * *

Subchapter A—Returns and Records

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PART II—TAX RETURNS OR STATEMENTS

* * * * *

Subpart A—General Requirement

* * * * *

SEC. 6011. GENERAL REQUIREMENT OF RETURN, STATEMENT, OR LIST.

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—When required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary any person made liable for any tax imposed by this title, or with respect to the collection thereof, shall make a return or statement according to the forms and regulations prescribed by the Secretary. Every person required to make a return or statement shall include therein the information required by such forms or regulations.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF TAXPAYER.**—The Secretary is authorized to require such information with respect to persons subject to the taxes imposed by chapter 21 or chapter 24 as is necessary or helpful in securing proper identification of such persons.

(c) **RETURNS, ETC., OF DISCS AND FORMER DISCS AND FORMER FSC'S.**—

(1) RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—A DISC, former DISC, or former FSC (as defined in section 922 as in effect before its repeal by the FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000) shall for the taxable year—

(A) furnish such information to persons who were shareholders at any time during such taxable year, and to the Secretary, and

(B) keep such records, as may be required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) RETURNS.—A DISC shall file for the taxable year such returns as may be prescribed by the Secretary by forms or regulations.

(d) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE INFORMATION CONCERNING SECTION 912 ALLOWANCES.—The Secretary may by regulations require any individual who receives allowances which are excluded from gross income under section 912 for any taxable year to include on his return of the taxes imposed by subtitle A for such taxable year such information with respect to the amount and type of such allowances as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) REGULATIONS REQUIRING RETURNS ON MAGNETIC MEDIA, ETC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations providing standards for determining which returns must be filed on magnetic media or in other machine-readable form. Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary may not require returns of any tax imposed by subtitle A on individuals, estates, and trusts to be other than on paper forms supplied by the Secretary.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF REGULATIONS.—In prescribing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) shall not require any person to file returns on magnetic media unless such person is required to file at least [250] *the applicable number of* returns during the calendar year, and

(B) shall take into account (among other relevant factors) the ability of the taxpayer to comply at reasonable cost with the requirements of such regulations.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR TAX RETURN PREPARERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that any individual income tax return prepared by a tax return preparer be filed on magnetic media if—

(i) such return is filed by such tax return preparer, and

(ii) such tax return preparer is a specified tax return preparer for the calendar year during which such return is filed.

(B) SPECIFIED TAX RETURN PREPARER.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “specified tax return preparer” means, with respect to any calendar year, any tax return preparer unless such preparer reasonably expects to file 10 or fewer individual income tax returns during such calendar year.

(C) INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “individual income tax return”

means any return of the tax imposed by subtitle A on individuals, estates, or trusts.

(D) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PREPARERS LOCATED IN AREAS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines, on the basis of an application by the tax return preparer, that the preparer cannot meet such requirement by reason of being located in a geographic area which does not have access to internet service (other than dial-up or satellite service).

(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETURNS FILED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WITHHOLDING ON FOREIGN TRANSFERS.—The numerical limitation under paragraph (2)(A) shall not apply to any return filed by a financial institution (as defined in section 1471(d)(5)) with respect to tax for which such institution is made liable under section 1461 or 1474(a).

(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR PARTNERSHIPS.—

(A) PARTNERSHIPS PERMITTED TO BE REQUIRED TO FILE ON MAGNETIC MEDIA.—In the case of a partnership, paragraph (2)(A) shall be applied by substituting for “250” the following amount:

(i) In the case of returns and statements relating to calendar year 2018, “200”.

(ii) In the case of returns and statements relating to calendar year 2019, “150”.

(iii) In the case of returns and statements relating to calendar year 2020, “100”.

(iv) In the case of returns and statements relating to calendar year 2021, “50”.

(v) In the case of returns and statements relating to calendar years after 2021, “20”.

(B) PARTNERSHIPS REQUIRED TO FILE ON MAGNETIC MEDIA.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) and paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary shall require partnerships having more than 100 partners to file returns on magnetic media.

(6) APPLICABLE NUMBER.—*For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the applicable number shall be determined in accordance with the following table:*

(A) in the case of calendar years before 2020, 250,

(B) in the case of calendar year 2020, 100, and

(C) in the case of calendar years after 2020, 10.

(f) PROMOTION OF ELECTRONIC FILING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to promote the benefits of and encourage the use of electronic tax administration programs, as they become available, through the use of mass communications and other means.

(2) INCENTIVES.—The Secretary may implement procedures to provide for the payment of appropriate incentives for electronically filed returns.

(g) DISCLOSURE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTION TO TAX-EXEMPT ENTITY.—Any taxable party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction (as defined in section 4965(e)(1)) shall by statement disclose to any tax-exempt entity (as defined in section 4965(c)) which is a party to such transaction that such transaction is such a prohibited tax shelter transaction.

(h) INCOME, ESTATE, AND GIFT TAXES FOR REQUIREMENT THAT RETURNS OF INCOME, ESTATE, AND GIFT.—taxes be made whether or not there is tax liability, see subparts B and C.

* * * * *

PART IV—SIGNING AND VERIFYING OF RETURNS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

* * * * *

SEC. 6061. SIGNING OF RETURNS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) and sections 6062 and 6063, any return, statement, or other document required to be made under any provision of the internal revenue laws or regulations shall be signed in accordance with forms or regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop procedures for the acceptance of signatures in digital or other electronic form. Until such time as such procedures are in place, the Secretary may—

(A) waive the requirement of a signature for; or

(B) provide for alternative methods of signing or subscribing,

a particular type or class of return, declaration, statement, or other document required or permitted to be made or written under internal revenue laws and regulations.

(2) TREATMENT OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any return, declaration, statement, or other document filed and verified, signed, or subscribed under any method adopted under paragraph (1)(B) shall be treated for all purposes (both civil and criminal, including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as though signed or subscribed.

[(3) PUBLISHED GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall publish guidance as appropriate to define and implement any waiver of the signature requirements or any method adopted under paragraph (1).]

(3) PUBLISHED GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*The Secretary shall publish guidance as appropriate to define and implement any waiver of the signature requirements or any method adopted under paragraph (1).*

(B) ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS.—*Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall publish guidance to establish uniform standards and procedures for the acceptance of taxpayers' signatures appearing in electronic form with respect to any request for disclosure of a taxpayer's return or return information under section 6103(c) to a practitioner or any power of attorney granted by a taxpayer to a practitioner.*

(C) PRACTITIONER.—*For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term "practitioner" means any individual in good*

standing who is regulated under section 330 of title 31, United States Code.

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Subchapter B—Miscellaneous Provisions

* * * * *

SEC. 6103. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Returns and return information shall be confidential, and except as authorized by this title—

(1) no officer or employee of the United States,

(2) no officer or employee of any State, any local law enforcement agency receiving information under subsection (i)(1)(C) or (7)(A), any local child support enforcement agency, or any local agency administering a program listed in subsection (l)(7)(D) who has or had access to returns or return information under this section or section 6104(c), and

(3) no other person (or officer or employee thereof) who has or had access to returns or return information under *subsection (c)*, subsection (e)(1)(D)(iii), **subsection (k)(10)** *paragraph (10) or (13) of subsection (k)*, paragraph (6), (10), (12), (16), (19), (20), or (21) of subsection (l), paragraph (2) or (4)(B) of subsection (m), or subsection (n),

shall disclose any return or return information obtained by him in any manner in connection with his service as such an officer or an employee or otherwise or under the provisions of this section. For purposes of this subsection, the term “officer or employee” includes a former officer or employee.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) RETURN.—The term “return” means any tax or information return, declaration of estimated tax, or claim for refund required by, or provided for or permitted under, the provisions of this title which is filed with the Secretary by, on behalf of, or with respect to any person, and any amendment or supplement thereto, including supporting schedules, attachments, or lists which are supplemental to, or part of, the return so filed.

(2) RETURN INFORMATION.—The term “return information” means—

(A) a taxpayer’s identity, the nature, source, or amount of his income, payments, receipts, deductions, exemptions, credits, assets, liabilities, net worth, tax liability, tax withheld, deficiencies, overassessments, or tax payments, whether the taxpayer’s return was, is being, or will be examined or subject to other investigation or processing, or any other data, received by, recorded by, prepared by, furnished to, or collected by the Secretary with respect to a return or with respect to the determination of the existence, or possible existence, of liability (or the amount thereof) of any person under this title for any tax, penalty, interest, fine, forfeiture, or other imposition, or offense,

(B) any part of any written determination or any background file document relating to such written determina-

tion (as such terms are defined in section 6110(b)) which is not open to public inspection under section 6110,

(C) any advance pricing agreement entered into by a taxpayer and the Secretary and any background information related to such agreement or any application for an advance pricing agreement, and

(D) any agreement under section 7121, and any similar agreement, and any background information related to such an agreement or request for such an agreement, but such term does not include data in a form which cannot be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer. Nothing in the preceding sentence, or in any other provision of law, shall be construed to require the disclosure of standards used or to be used for the selection of returns for examination, or data used or to be used for determining such standards, if the Secretary determines that such disclosure will seriously impair assessment, collection, or enforcement under the internal revenue laws.

(3) TAXPAYER RETURN INFORMATION.—The term “taxpayer return information” means return information as defined in paragraph (2) which is filed with, or furnished to, the Secretary by or on behalf of the taxpayer to whom such return information relates.

(4) TAX ADMINISTRATION.—The term “tax administration”—

(A) means—

(i) the administration, management, conduct, direction, and supervision of the execution and application of the internal revenue laws or related statutes (or equivalent laws and statutes of a State) and tax conventions to which the United States is a party, and

(ii) the development and formulation of Federal tax policy relating to existing or proposed internal revenue laws, related statutes, and tax conventions, and

(B) includes assessment, collection, enforcement, litigation, publication, and statistical gathering functions under such laws, statutes, or conventions.

(5) STATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “State” means—

(i) any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

(ii) for purposes of subsections (a)(2), (b)(4), (d)(1), (h)(4), and (p), any municipality—

(I) with a population in excess of 250,000 (as determined under the most recent decennial United States census data available),

(II) which imposes a tax on income or wages, and

(III) with which the Secretary (in his sole discretion) has entered into an agreement regarding disclosure, and

(iii) for purposes of subsections (a)(2), (b)(4), (d)(1), (h)(4), and (p), any governmental entity—

(I) which is formed and operated by a qualified group of municipalities, and

(II) with which the Secretary (in his sole discretion) has entered into an agreement regarding disclosure.

(B) REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCIES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(i) QUALIFIED GROUP OF MUNICIPALITIES.—The term “qualified group of municipalities” means, with respect to any governmental entity, 2 or more municipalities—

(I) each of which imposes a tax on income or wages,

(II) each of which, under the authority of a State statute, administers the laws relating to the imposition of such taxes through such entity, and

(III) which collectively have a population in excess of 250,000 (as determined under the most recent decennial United States census data available).

(ii) REFERENCES TO STATE LAW, ETC.—For purposes of applying subparagraph (A)(iii) to the subsections referred to in such subparagraph, any reference in such subsections to State law, proceedings, or tax returns shall be treated as references to the law, proceedings, or tax returns, as the case may be, of the municipalities which form and operate the governmental entity referred to in such subparagraph.

(iii) DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHER AGENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed to any contractor or other agent of a governmental entity referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii) unless such entity, to the satisfaction of the Secretary—

(I) has requirements in effect which require each such contractor or other agent which would have access to returns or return information to provide safeguards (within the meaning of subsection (p)(4)) to protect the confidentiality of such returns or return information,

(II) agrees to conduct an on-site review every 3 years (or a mid-point review in the case of contracts or agreements of less than 3 years in duration) of each contractor or other agent to determine compliance with such requirements,

(III) submits the findings of the most recent review conducted under subclause (II) to the Secretary as part of the report required by subsection (p)(4)(E), and

(IV) certifies to the Secretary for the most recent annual period that such contractor or other agent is in compliance with all such requirements.

The certification required by subclause (IV) shall include the name and address of each contractor and other agent, a description of the contract or agreement with such contractor or other agent, and the duration

of such contract or agreement. The requirements of this clause shall not apply to disclosures pursuant to subsection (n) for purposes of Federal tax administration and a rule similar to the rule of subsection (p)(8)(B) shall apply for purposes of this clause.

(6) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—The term “taxpayer identity” means the name of a person with respect to whom a return is filed, his mailing address, his taxpayer identifying number (as described in section 6109), or a combination thereof.

(7) INSPECTION.—The terms “inspected” and “inspection” mean any examination of a return or return information.

(8) DISCLOSURE.—The term “disclosure” means the making known to any person in any manner whatever a return or return information.

(9) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” means an agency within the meaning of section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(10) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term “chief executive officer” means, with respect to any municipality, any elected official and the chief official (even if not elected) of such municipality.

(11) TERRORIST INCIDENT, THREAT, OR ACTIVITY.—The term “terrorist incident, threat, or activity” means an incident, threat, or activity involving an act of domestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331(5) of title 18, United States Code) or international terrorism (as defined in section 2331(1) of such title).

(c) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION TO DESIGNEE OF TAXPAYER.—The Secretary may, subject to such requirements and conditions as he may prescribe by regulations, disclose the return of any taxpayer, or return information with respect to such taxpayer, to such person or persons as the taxpayer may designate in a request for or consent to such disclosure, or to any other person at the taxpayer’s request to the extent necessary to comply with a request for information or assistance made by the taxpayer to such other person. However, return information shall not be disclosed to such person or persons if the Secretary determines that such disclosure would seriously impair Federal tax administration. *Persons designated by the taxpayer under this subsection to receive return information shall not use the information for any purpose other than the express purpose for which consent was granted and shall not disclose return information to any other person without the express permission of, or request by, the taxpayer.*

(d) DISCLOSURE TO STATE TAX OFFICIALS AND STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Returns and return information with respect to taxes imposed by chapters 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 21, 23, 24, 31, 32, 44, 51, and 52 and subchapter D of chapter 36 shall be open to inspection by, or disclosure to, any State agency, body, or commission, or its legal representative, which is charged under the laws of such State with responsibility for the administration of State tax laws for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in, the administration of such laws, including any procedures with respect to locating any person who may be entitled to a refund. Such inspection shall be permitted, or

such disclosure made, only upon written request by the head of such agency, body, or commission, and only to the representatives of such agency, body, or commission designated in such written request as the individuals who are to inspect or to receive the returns or return information on behalf of such agency, body, or commission. Such representatives shall not include any individual who is the chief executive officer of such State or who is neither an employee or legal representative of such agency, body, or commission nor a person described in subsection (n). However, such return information shall not be disclosed to the extent that the Secretary determines that such disclosure would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair any civil or criminal tax investigation.

(2) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AUDIT AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any returns or return information obtained under paragraph (1) by any State agency, body, or commission may be open to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of the State audit agency for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in, making an audit of the State agency, body, or commission referred to in paragraph (1).

(B) STATE AUDIT AGENCY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “State audit agency” means any State agency, body, or commission which is charged under the laws of the State with the responsibility of auditing State revenues and programs.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER SECTION 7624.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Secretary from disclosing to any State or local law enforcement agency which may receive a payment under section 7624 the amount of the recovered taxes with respect to which such a payment may be made.

(4) AVAILABILITY AND USE OF DEATH INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No returns or return information may be disclosed under paragraph (1) to any agency, body, or commission of any State (or any legal representative thereof) during any period during which a contract meeting the requirements of subparagraph (B) is not in effect between such State and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(B) CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS.—A contract meets the requirements of this subparagraph if—

(i) such contract requires the State to furnish the Secretary of Health and Human Services information concerning individuals with respect to whom death certificates (or equivalent documents maintained by the State or any subdivision thereof) have been officially filed with it, and

(ii) such contract does not include any restriction on the use of information obtained by such Secretary pursuant to such contract, except that such contract may provide that such information is only to be used by the Secretary (or any other Federal agency) for purposes of ensuring that Federal benefits or other payments are not erroneously paid to deceased individuals.

Any information obtained by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under such a contract shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and from the requirements of section 552a of such title 5.

(C) SPECIAL EXCEPTION.—The provisions of subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any State which on July 1, 1993, was not, pursuant to a contract, furnishing the Secretary of Health and Human Services information concerning individuals with respect to whom death certificates (or equivalent documents maintained by the State or any subdivision thereof) have been officially filed with it.

(5) DISCLOSURE FOR COMBINED EMPLOYMENT TAX REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may disclose taxpayer identity information and signatures to any agency, body, or commission of any State for the purpose of carrying out with such agency, body, or commission a combined Federal and State employment tax reporting program approved by the Secretary. Subsections (a)(2) and (p)(4) and sections 7213 and 7213A shall not apply with respect to disclosures or inspections made pursuant to this paragraph.

(B) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may not make any disclosure under this paragraph after December 31, 2007.

(6) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REGARDING REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCIES TREATED AS STATES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), inspection by or disclosure to an entity described in subsection (b)(5)(A)(iii) shall be for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in, the administration of the laws of the member municipalities in such entity relating to the imposition of a tax on income or wages. Such entity may not redisclose any return or return information received pursuant to paragraph (1) to any such member municipality.

(e) DISCLOSURE TO PERSONS HAVING MATERIAL INTEREST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The return of a person shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to—

(A) in the case of the return of an individual—

(i) that individual,

(ii) the spouse of that individual if the individual and such spouse have signified their consent to consider a gift reported on such return as made one-half by him and one-half by the spouse pursuant to the provisions of section 2513; or

(iii) the child of that individual (or such child's legal representative) to the extent necessary to comply with the provisions of section 1(g);

(B) in the case of an income tax return filed jointly, either of the individuals with respect to whom the return is filed;

(C) in the case of the return of a partnership, any person who was a member of such partnership during any part of the period covered by the return;

(D) in the case of the return of a corporation or a subsidiary thereof—

(i) any person designated by resolution of its board of directors or other similar governing body,

(ii) any officer or employee of such corporation upon written request signed by any principal officer and attested to by the secretary or other officer,

(iii) any bona fide shareholder of record owning 1 percent or more of the outstanding stock of such corporation,

(iv) if the corporation was an S corporation, any person who was a shareholder during any part of the period covered by such return during which an election under section 1362(a) was in effect, or

(v) if the corporation has been dissolved, any person authorized by applicable State law to act for the corporation or any person who the Secretary finds to have a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein;

(E) in the case of the return of an estate—

(i) the administrator, executor, or trustee of such estate, and

(ii) any heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary under the will, of the decedent, but only if the Secretary finds that such heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein; and

(F) in the case of the return of a trust—

(i) the trustee or trustees, jointly or separately, and

(ii) any beneficiary of such trust, but only if the Secretary finds that such beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(2) INCOMPETENCY.—If an individual described in paragraph (1) is legally incompetent, the applicable return shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to the committee, trustee, or guardian of his estate.

(3) DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—The return of a decedent shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to—

(A) the administrator, executor, or trustee of his estate, and

(B) any heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary under the will, of such decedent, or a donee of property, but only if the Secretary finds that such heir at law, next of kin, beneficiary, or donee has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(4) TITLE 11 CASES AND RECEIVERSHIP PROCEEDINGS.—If—

(A) there is a trustee in a title 11 case in which the debtor is the person with respect to whom the return is filed, or

(B) substantially all of the property of the person with respect to whom the return is filed is in the hands of a receiver,

such return or returns for prior years of such person shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to such trustee or receiver, but only if the Secretary finds that

such trustee or receiver, in his fiduciary capacity, has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(5) INDIVIDUAL'S TITLE 11 CASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case to which section 1398 applies (determined without regard to section 1398(b)(1)), any return of the debtor for the taxable year in which the case commenced or any preceding taxable year shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to the trustee in such case.

(B) RETURN OF ESTATE AVAILABLE TO DEBTOR.—Any return of an estate in a case to which section 1398 applies shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to the debtor in such case.

(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR INVOLUNTARY CASES.—In an involuntary case, no disclosure shall be made under subparagraph (A) until the order for relief has been entered by the court having jurisdiction of such case unless such court finds that such disclosure is appropriate for purposes of determining whether an order for relief should be entered.

(6) ATTORNEY IN FACT.—Any return to which this subsection applies shall, upon written request, also be open to inspection by or disclosure to the attorney in fact duly authorized in writing by any of the persons described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (8), or (9) to inspect the return or receive the information on his behalf, subject to the conditions provided in such paragraphs.

(7) RETURN INFORMATION.—Return information with respect to any taxpayer may be open to inspection by or disclosure to any person authorized by this subsection to inspect any return of such taxpayer if the Secretary determines that such disclosure would not seriously impair Federal tax administration.

(8) DISCLOSURE OF COLLECTION ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO JOINT RETURN.—If any deficiency of tax with respect to a joint return is assessed and the individuals filing such return are no longer married or no longer reside in the same household, upon request in writing by either of such individuals, the Secretary shall disclose in writing to the individual making the request whether the Secretary has attempted to collect such deficiency from such other individual, the general nature of such collection activities, and the amount collected. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any deficiency which may not be collected by reason of section 6502.

(9) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION WHERE MORE THAN 1 PERSON SUBJECT TO PENALTY UNDER SECTION 6672.—If the Secretary determines that a person is liable for a penalty under section 6672(a) with respect to any failure, upon request in writing of such person, the Secretary shall disclose in writing to such person—

(A) the name of any other person whom the Secretary has determined to be liable for such penalty with respect to such failure, and

(B) whether the Secretary has attempted to collect such penalty from such other person, the general nature of such collection activities, and the amount collected.

(10) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN DISCLOSURES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.—In the case of an inspection or disclosure under this subsection relating to the return of a partnership, S corporation, trust, or an estate, the information inspected or disclosed shall not include any supporting schedule, attachment, or list which includes the taxpayer identity information of a person other than the entity making the return or the person conducting the inspection or to whom the disclosure is made.

(11) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REGARDING STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.—In the case of a person who provides to the Secretary information indicating a violation of section 7213, 7213A, or 7214 with respect to any return or return information of such person, the Secretary may disclose to such person (or such person's designee)—

(A) whether an investigation based on the person's provision of such information has been initiated and whether it is open or closed,

(B) whether any such investigation substantiated such a violation by any individual, and

(C) whether any action has been taken with respect to such individual (including whether a referral has been made for prosecution of such individual).

(f) DISCLOSURE TO COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—

(1) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AND JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION.—Upon written request from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, or the chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Secretary shall furnish such committee with any return or return information specified in such request, except that any return or return information which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer shall be furnished to such committee only when sitting in closed executive session unless such taxpayer otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(2) CHIEF OF STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION.—Upon written request by the Chief of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Secretary shall furnish him with any return or return information specified in such request. Such Chief of Staff may submit such return or return information to any committee described in paragraph (1), except that any return or return information which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer shall be furnished to such committee only when sitting in closed executive session unless such taxpayer otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(3) OTHER COMMITTEES.—Pursuant to an action by, and upon written request by the chairman of, a committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives (other than a committee specified in paragraph (1)) specially authorized to inspect any return or return information by a resolution of the Senate or the House of Representatives or, in the case of a joint committee (other than the joint committee specified in paragraph (1)) by concurrent resolution, the Secretary shall furnish such committee, or a duly authorized and designated subcommittee

thereof, sitting in closed executive session, with any return or return information which such resolution authorizes the committee or subcommittee to inspect. Any resolution described in this paragraph shall specify the purpose for which the return or return information is to be furnished and that such information cannot reasonably be obtained from any other source.

(4) AGENTS OF COMMITTEES AND SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO SENATE OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1).—Any committee described in paragraph (1) or the Chief of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation shall have the authority, acting directly, or by or through such examiners or agents as the chairman of such committee or such chief of staff may designate or appoint, to inspect returns and return information at such time and in such manner as may be determined by such chairman or chief of staff. Any return or return information obtained by or on behalf of such committee pursuant to the provisions of this subsection may be submitted by the committee to the Senate or the House of Representatives, or to both. The Joint Committee on Taxation may also submit such return or return information to any other committee described in paragraph (1), except that any return or return information which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer shall be furnished to such committee only when sitting in closed executive session unless such taxpayer otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(B) OTHER COMMITTEES.—Any committee or subcommittee described in paragraph (3) shall have the right, acting directly, or by or through no more than four examiners or agents, designated or appointed in writing in equal numbers by the chairman and ranking minority member of such committee or subcommittee, to inspect returns and return information at such time and in such manner as may be determined by such chairman and ranking minority member. Any return or return information obtained by or on behalf of such committee or subcommittee pursuant to the provisions of this subsection may be submitted by the committee to the Senate or the House of Representatives, or to both, except that any return or return information which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer, shall be furnished to the Senate or the House of Representatives only when sitting in closed executive session unless such taxpayer otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(5) DISCLOSURE BY WHISTLEBLOWER.—Any person who otherwise has or had access to any return or return information under this section may disclose such return or return information to a committee referred to in paragraph (1) or any individual authorized to receive or inspect information under paragraph (4)(A) if such person believes such return or return information may relate to possible misconduct, maladministration, or taxpayer abuse.

(g) DISCLOSURE TO PRESIDENT AND CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request by the President, signed by him personally, the Secretary shall furnish to the President, or to such employee or employees of the White House Office as the President may designate by name in such request, a return or return information with respect to any taxpayer named in such request. Any such request shall state—

(A) the name and address of the taxpayer whose return or return information is to be disclosed,

(B) the kind of return or return information which is to be disclosed,

(C) the taxable period or periods covered by such return or return information, and

(D) the specific reason why the inspection or disclosure is requested.

(2) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION AS TO PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES AND CERTAIN OTHER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES.—The Secretary may disclose to a duly authorized representative of the Executive Office of the President or to the head of any Federal agency, upon written request by the President or head of such agency, or to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on behalf of and upon written request by the President or such head, return information with respect to an individual who is designated as being under consideration for appointment to a position in the executive or judicial branch of the Federal Government. Such return information shall be limited to whether such individual—

(A) has filed returns with respect to the taxes imposed under chapter 1 for not more than the immediately preceding 3 years;

(B) has failed to pay any tax within 10 days after notice and demand, or has been assessed any penalty under this title for negligence, in the current year or immediately preceding 3 years;

(C) has been or is under investigation for possible criminal offenses under the internal revenue laws and the results of any such investigation; or

(D) has been assessed any civil penalty under this title for fraud.

Within 3 days of the receipt of any request for any return information with respect to any individual under this paragraph, the Secretary shall notify such individual in writing that such information has been requested under the provisions of this paragraph.

(3) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The employees to whom returns and return information are disclosed under this subsection shall not disclose such returns and return information to any other person except the President or the head of such agency without the personal written direction of the President or the head of such agency.

(4) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—Disclosure of returns and return information under this subsection shall not be made to any employee whose annual rate of basic pay is less than the annual rate of basic pay specified

for positions subject to section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Within 30 days after the close of each calendar quarter, the President and the head of any agency requesting returns and return information under this subsection shall each file a report with the Joint Committee on Taxation setting forth the taxpayers with respect to whom such requests were made during such quarter under this subsection, the returns or return information involved, and the reasons for such requests. The President shall not be required to report on any request for returns and return information pertaining to an individual who was an officer or employee of the executive branch of the Federal Government at the time such request was made. Reports filed pursuant to this paragraph shall not be disclosed unless the Joint Committee on Taxation determines that disclosure thereof (including identifying details) would be in the national interest. Such reports shall be maintained by the Joint Committee on Taxation for a period not exceeding 2 years unless, within such period, the Joint Committee on Taxation determines that a disclosure to the Congress is necessary.

(h) DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES OF TAX ADMINISTRATION, ETC.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—Returns and return information shall, without written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury whose official duties require such inspection or disclosure for tax administration purposes.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—In a matter involving tax administration, a return or return information shall be open to inspection by or disclosure to officers and employees of the Department of Justice (including United States attorneys) personally and directly engaged in, and solely for their use in, any proceeding before a Federal grand jury or preparation for any proceeding (or investigation which may result in such a proceeding) before a Federal grand jury or any Federal or State court, but only if—

(A) the taxpayer is or may be a party to the proceeding, or the proceeding arose out of, or in connection with, determining the taxpayer's civil or criminal liability, or the collection of such civil liability in respect of any tax imposed under this title;

(B) the treatment of an item reflected on such return is or may be related to the resolution of an issue in the proceeding or investigation; or

(C) such return or return information relates or may relate to a transactional relationship between a person who is or may be a party to the proceeding and the taxpayer which affects, or may affect, the resolution of an issue in such proceeding or investigation.

(3) FORM OF REQUEST.—In any case in which the Secretary is authorized to disclose a return or return information to the Department of Justice pursuant to the provisions of this subsection—

(A) if the Secretary has referred the case to the Department of Justice, or if the proceeding is authorized by subchapter B of chapter 76, the Secretary may make such disclosure on his own motion, or

(B) if the Secretary receives a written request from the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, or an Assistant Attorney General for a return of, or return information relating to, a person named in such request and setting forth the need for the disclosure, the Secretary shall disclose return or return the information so requested.

(4) DISCLOSURE IN JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TAX PROCEEDINGS.—A return or return information may be disclosed in a Federal or State judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to tax administration, but only—

(A) if the taxpayer is a party to the proceeding, or the proceeding arose out of, or in connection with, determining the taxpayer's civil or criminal liability, or the collection of such civil liability, in respect of any tax imposed under this title;

(B) if the treatment of an item reflected on such return is directly related to the resolution of an issue in the proceeding;

(C) if such return or return information directly relates to a transactional relationship between a person who is a party to the proceeding and the taxpayer which directly affects the resolution of an issue in the proceeding; or

(D) to the extent required by order of a court pursuant to section 3500 of title 18, United States Code, or rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, such court being authorized in the issuance of such order to give due consideration to congressional policy favoring the confidentiality of returns and return information as set forth in this title.

However, such return or return information shall not be disclosed as provided in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) if the Secretary determines that such disclosure would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax investigation.

(5) WITHHOLDING OF TAX FROM SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.—Upon written request of the payor agency, the Secretary may disclose available return information from the master files of the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the address and status of an individual as a nonresident alien or as a citizen or resident of the United States to the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board (whichever is appropriate) for purposes of carrying out its responsibilities for withholding tax under section 1441 from social security benefits (as defined in section 86(d)).

(6) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), and except as provided in subparagraph (B), no return or return information may be disclosed to any member of the Oversight Board described in subparagraph (A) or (D) of section 7802(b)(1) or to any employee or detailee of such

Board by reason of their service with the Board. Any request for information not permitted to be disclosed under the preceding sentence, and any contact relating to a specific taxpayer, made by any such individual to an officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service shall be reported by such officer or employee to the Secretary, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and the Joint Committee on Taxation.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR REPORTS TO THE BOARD.—If—

(i) the Commissioner or the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration prepares any report or other matter for the Oversight Board in order to assist the Board in carrying out its duties; and

(ii) the Commissioner or such Inspector General determines it is necessary to include any return or return information in such report or other matter to enable the Board to carry out such duties, such return or return information (other than information regarding taxpayer identity) may be disclosed to members, employees, or detailees of the Board solely for the purpose of carrying out such duties.

(i) DISCLOSURE TO FEDERAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL LAWS NOT RELATING TO TAX ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION FOR USE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any return or return information with respect to any specified taxable period or periods shall, pursuant to and upon the grant of an ex parte order by a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge under subparagraph (B), be open (but only to the extent necessary as provided in such order) to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of any Federal agency who are personally and directly engaged in—

(i) preparation for any judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to the enforcement of a specifically designated Federal criminal statute (not involving tax administration) to which the United States or such agency is or may be a party, or pertaining to the case of a missing or exploited child,

(ii) any investigation which may result in such a proceeding, or

(iii) any Federal grand jury proceeding pertaining to enforcement of such a criminal statute to which the United States or such agency is or may be a party, or to such a case of a missing or exploited child,

solely for the use of such officers and employees in such preparation, investigation, or grand jury proceeding.

(B) APPLICATION FOR ORDER.—The Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, any Assistant Attorney General, any United States attorney, any special prosecutor appointed under section 593 of title 28, United States Code, or any attorney in charge of a criminal division organized crime strike force established

pursuant to section 510 of title 28, United States Code, may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge for the order referred to in subparagraph (A). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate judge may grant such order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that—

(i) there is reasonable cause to believe, based upon information believed to be reliable, that a specific criminal act has been committed,

(ii) there is reasonable cause to believe that the return or return information is or may be relevant to a matter relating to the commission of such act, and

(iii) the return or return information is sought exclusively for use in a Federal criminal investigation or proceeding concerning such act (or any criminal investigation or proceeding, in the case of a matter relating to a missing or exploited child), and the information sought to be disclosed cannot reasonably be obtained, under the circumstances, from another source.

(C) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE CASE OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO A MISSING OR EXPLOITED CHILD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an investigation pertaining to a missing or exploited child, the head of any Federal agency, or his designee, may disclose any return or return information obtained under subparagraph (A) to officers and employees of any State or local law enforcement agency, but only if—

(I) such State or local law enforcement agency is part of a team with the Federal agency in such investigation, and

(II) such information is disclosed only to such officers and employees who are personally and directly engaged in such investigation.

(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under this subparagraph shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in locating the missing child, in a grand jury proceeding, or in any preparation for, or investigation which may result in, a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(iii) MISSING CHILD.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “missing child” shall have the meaning given such term by section 403 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5772).

(iv) EXPLOITED CHILD.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “exploited child” means a minor with respect to whom there is reason to believe that a specified offense against a minor (as defined by section 111(7) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16911(7))) has or is occurring.

(2) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION OTHER THAN TAXPAYER RETURN INFORMATION FOR USE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), upon receipt by the Secretary of a request which meets the

requirements of subparagraph (B) from the head of any Federal agency or the Inspector General thereof, or, in the case of the Department of Justice, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, any Assistant Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, any United States attorney, any special prosecutor appointed under section 593 of title 28, United States Code, or any attorney in charge of a criminal division organized crime strike force established pursuant to section 510 of title 28, United States Code, the Secretary shall disclose return information (other than taxpayer return information) to officers and employees of such agency who are personally and directly engaged in—

- (i) preparation for any judicial or administrative proceeding described in paragraph (1)(A)(i),
- (ii) any investigation which may result in such a proceeding, or
- (iii) any grand jury proceeding described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii),

solely for the use of such officers and employees in such preparation, investigation, or grand jury proceeding.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A request meets the requirements of this subparagraph if the request is in writing and sets forth—

- (i) the name and address of the taxpayer with respect to whom the requested return information relates;
- (ii) the taxable period or periods to which such return information relates;
- (iii) the statutory authority under which the proceeding or investigation described in subparagraph (A) is being conducted; and
- (iv) the specific reason or reasons why such disclosure is, or may be, relevant to such proceeding or investigation.

(C) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this paragraph, a taxpayer's identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

(3) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO APPRISE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF CRIMINAL OR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OR EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(A) POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW.—

- (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary may disclose in writing return information (other than taxpayer return information) which may constitute evidence of a violation of any Federal criminal law (not involving tax administration) to the extent necessary to apprise the head of the appropriate Federal agency charged with the responsibility of enforcing such law. The head of such agency may disclose such return information to officers and employees of such agency to the extent necessary to enforce such law.

(ii) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—If there is return information (other than taxpayer return information) which may constitute evidence of a violation by any taxpayer of any Federal criminal law (not involving tax administration), such taxpayer's identity may also be disclosed under clause (i).

(B) EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(i) DANGER OF DEATH OR PHYSICAL INJURY.—Under circumstances involving an imminent danger of death or physical injury to any individual, the Secretary may disclose return information to the extent necessary to apprise appropriate officers or employees of any Federal or State law enforcement agency of such circumstances.

(ii) FLIGHT FROM FEDERAL PROSECUTION.—Under circumstances involving the imminent flight of any individual from Federal prosecution, the Secretary may disclose return information to the extent necessary to apprise appropriate officers or employees of any Federal law enforcement agency of such circumstances.

(C) TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary may disclose in writing return information (other than taxpayer return information) that may be related to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity to the extent necessary to apprise the head of the appropriate Federal law enforcement agency responsible for investigating or responding to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity. The head of the agency may disclose such return information to officers and employees of such agency to the extent necessary to investigate or respond to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(ii) DISCLOSURE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Returns and taxpayer return information may also be disclosed to the Attorney General under clause (i) to the extent necessary for, and solely for use in preparing, an application under paragraph (7)(D).

(iii) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a taxpayer's identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

(4) USE OF CERTAIN DISCLOSED RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION IN JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—

(A) RETURNS AND TAXPAYER RETURN INFORMATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), any return or taxpayer return information obtained under paragraph (1) or (7)(C) may be disclosed in any judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to enforcement of a specifically designated Federal criminal statute or related civil forfeiture (not involving tax administration) to which the United States or a Federal agency is a party—

(i) if the court finds that such return or taxpayer return information is probative of a matter in issue relevant in establishing the commission of a crime or the guilt or liability of a party, or

(ii) to the extent required by order of the court pursuant to section 3500 of title 18, United States Code, or rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(B) RETURN INFORMATION (OTHER THAN TAXPAYER RETURN INFORMATION).—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), any return information (other than taxpayer return information) obtained under paragraph (1), (2), (3)(A) or (C), or (7) may be disclosed in any judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to enforcement of a specifically designated Federal criminal statute or related civil forfeiture (not involving tax administration) to which the United States or a Federal agency is a party.

(C) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT; IMPAIRMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS.—No return or return information shall be admitted into evidence under subparagraph (A)(i) or (B) if the Secretary determines and notifies the Attorney General or his delegate or the head of the Federal agency that such admission would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax investigation.

(D) CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY.—In ruling upon the admissibility of returns or return information, and in the issuance of an order under subparagraph (A)(ii), the court shall give due consideration to congressional policy favoring the confidentiality of returns and return information as set forth in this title.

(E) REVERSIBLE ERROR.—The admission into evidence of any return or return information contrary to the provisions of this paragraph shall not, as such, constitute reversible error upon appeal of a judgment in the proceeding.

(5) DISCLOSURE TO LOCATE FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the return of an individual or return information with respect to such individual shall, pursuant to and upon the grant of an ex parte order by a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge under subparagraph (B), be open (but only to the extent necessary as provided in such order) to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of any Federal agency exclusively for use in locating such individual.

(B) APPLICATION FOR ORDER.—Any person described in paragraph (1)(B) may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge for an order referred to in subparagraph (A). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate judge may grant such order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that—

(i) a Federal arrest warrant relating to the commission of a Federal felony offense has been issued for an individual who is a fugitive from justice,

(ii) the return of such individual or return information with respect to such individual is sought exclusively for use in locating such individual, and

(iii) there is reasonable cause to believe that such return or return information may be relevant in determining the location of such individual.

(6) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS; IMPAIRMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary shall not disclose any return or return information under paragraph (1), (2), (3)(A) or (C), (5), (7), or (8) if the Secretary determines (and, in the case of a request for disclosure pursuant to a court order described in paragraph (1)(B) or (5)(B), certifies to the court) that such disclosure would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair a civil or criminal tax investigation.

(7) DISCLOSURE UPON REQUEST OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—

(A) DISCLOSURE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), upon receipt by the Secretary of a written request which meets the requirements of clause (iii), the Secretary may disclose return information (other than taxpayer return information) to officers and employees of any Federal law enforcement agency who are personally and directly engaged in the response to or investigation of any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(ii) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—The head of any Federal law enforcement agency may disclose return information obtained under clause (i) to officers and employees of any State or local law enforcement agency but only if such agency is part of a team with the Federal law enforcement agency in such response or investigation and such information is disclosed only to officers and employees who are personally and directly engaged in such response or investigation.

(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—A request meets the requirements of this clause if—

(I) the request is made by the head of any Federal law enforcement agency (or his delegate) involved in the response to or investigation of any terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

(II) the request sets forth the specific reason or reasons why such disclosure may be relevant to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(iv) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under this subparagraph shall be solely for the use of the officers and employees to whom such information is disclosed in such response or investigation.

(v) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a taxpayer's identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

(B) DISCLOSURE TO INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), upon receipt by the Secretary of a written request which meets the requirements of clause (ii), the Secretary may disclose return information (other than taxpayer return information) to those officers and employees of the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, and other Federal intelligence agencies who are personally and directly engaged in the

collection or analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information or investigation concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the information disclosed under the preceding sentence shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in such investigation, collection, or analysis.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A request meets the requirements of this subparagraph if the request—

(I) is made by an individual described in clause (iii), and

(II) sets forth the specific reason or reasons why such disclosure may be relevant to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(iii) REQUESTING INDIVIDUALS.—An individual described in this subparagraph is an individual—

(I) who is an officer or employee of the Department of Justice or the Department of the Treasury who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate or who is the Director of the United States Secret Service, and

(II) who is responsible for the collection and analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(iv) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a taxpayer's identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

(C) DISCLOSURE UNDER EX PARTE ORDERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any return or return information with respect to any specified taxable period or periods shall, pursuant to and upon the grant of an ex parte order by a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge under clause (ii), be open (but only to the extent necessary as provided in such order) to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of any Federal law enforcement agency or Federal intelligence agency who are personally and directly engaged in any investigation, response to, or analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity. Return or return information opened to inspection or disclosure pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in the investigation, response, or analysis, and in any judicial, administrative, or grand jury proceedings, pertaining to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(ii) APPLICATION FOR ORDER.—The Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, any Assistant Attorney General, or any United States attorney may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge for the order referred to in clause (i). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate judge may grant such

order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that—

(I) there is reasonable cause to believe, based upon information believed to be reliable, that the return or return information may be relevant to a matter relating to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

(II) the return or return information is sought exclusively for use in a Federal investigation, analysis, or proceeding concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR EX PARTE DISCLOSURE BY THE IRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate judge for the order referred to in subparagraph (C)(i). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate judge may grant such order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that the requirements of subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) are met.

(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under clause (i)—

(I) may be disclosed only to the extent necessary to apprise the head of the appropriate Federal law enforcement agency responsible for investigating or responding to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

(II) shall be solely for use in a Federal investigation, analysis, or proceeding concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

The head of such Federal agency may disclose such information to officers and employees of such agency to the extent necessary to investigate or respond to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

(8) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(A) RETURNS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), upon written request by the Comptroller General of the United States, returns and return information shall be open to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, making—

(i) an audit of the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, or the Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, which may be required by section 713 of title 31, United States Code, or

(ii) any audit authorized by subsection (p)(6), except that no such officer or employee shall, except to the extent authorized by subsection (f) or (p)(6), disclose to any person, other than another officer or employee of such office whose official duties require such disclosure, any return or return information described in section 4424(a) in a form which can be associated with, or otherwise identify,

directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer, nor shall such officer or employee disclose any other return or return information, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, to any person other than such other officer or employee of such office in a form which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer.

(B) AUDITS OF OTHER AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit any return or return information obtained under this title by any Federal agency (other than an agency referred to in subparagraph (A)) or by a Trustee as defined in the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997, for use in any program or activity from being open to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office if such inspection or disclosure is—

(I) for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, making an audit authorized by law of such program or activity, and

(II) pursuant to a written request by the Comptroller General of the United States to the head of such Federal agency.

(ii) INFORMATION FROM SECRETARY.—If the Comptroller General of the United States determines that the returns or return information available under clause (i) are not sufficient for purposes of making an audit of any program or activity of a Federal agency (other than an agency referred to in subparagraph (A)), upon written request by the Comptroller General to the Secretary, returns and return information (of the type authorized by subsection (l) or (m) to be made available to the Federal agency for use in such program or activity) shall be open to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, making such audit.

(iii) REQUIREMENT OF NOTIFICATION UPON COMPLETION OF AUDIT.—Within 90 days after the completion of an audit with respect to which returns or return information were opened to inspection or disclosed under clause (i) or (ii), the Comptroller General of the United States shall notify in writing the Joint Committee on Taxation of such completion. Such notice shall include—

(I) a description of the use of the returns and return information by the Federal agency involved,

(II) such recommendations with respect to the use of returns and return information by such Federal agency as the Comptroller General deems appropriate, and

(III) a statement on the impact of any such recommendations on confidentiality of returns and return information and the administration of this title.

(iv) CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS MADE APPLICABLE.—The restrictions contained in subparagraph (A) on the disclosure of any returns or return information open to inspection or disclosed under such subparagraph shall also apply to returns and return information open to inspection or disclosed under this subparagraph.

(C) DISAPPROVAL BY JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION.—Returns and return information shall not be open to inspection or disclosed under subparagraph (A) or (B) with respect to an audit—

(i) unless the Comptroller General of the United States notifies in writing the Joint Committee on Taxation of such audit, and

(ii) if the Joint Committee on Taxation disapproves such audit by a vote of at least two-thirds of its members within the 30-day period beginning on the day the Joint Committee on Taxation receives such notice.

(j) STATISTICAL USE.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—Upon request in writing by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary shall furnish—

(A) such returns, or return information reflected thereon, to officers and employees of the Bureau of the Census, and

(B) such return information reflected on returns of corporations to officers and employees of the Bureau of Economic Analysis,

as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary in, the structuring of censuses and national economic accounts and conducting related statistical activities authorized by law.

(2) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—Upon request in writing by the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, the Secretary shall furnish such return information reflected on any return of a corporation with respect to the tax imposed by chapter 1 to officers and employees of the Division of Financial Statistics of the Bureau of Economics of such commission as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary in, administration by such division of legally authorized economic surveys of corporations.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.—Returns and return information shall be open to inspection by or disclosure to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury whose official duties require such inspection or disclosure for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary in, preparing economic or financial forecasts, projections, analyses, and statistical studies and conducting related activities. Such inspection or disclosure shall be permitted only upon written request which sets forth the specific reason or reasons why such inspection or disclosure is necessary and which is signed by the head of the bureau or office of the Department of the Treasury requesting the inspection or disclosure.

(4) ANONYMOUS FORM.—No person who receives a return or return information under this subsection shall disclose such return or return information to any person other than the taxpayer to whom it relates except in a form which cannot be as-

sociated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer.

(5) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Upon request in writing by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary shall furnish such returns, or return information reflected thereon, as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation to officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture whose official duties require access to such returns or information for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary in, structuring, preparing, and conducting the census of agriculture pursuant to the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113).

(6) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—Upon written request by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, the Secretary shall furnish to officers and employees of the Congressional Budget Office return information for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary for, long-term models of the social security and medicare programs.

(k) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES.—

(1) DISCLOSURE OF ACCEPTED OFFERS-IN-COMPROMISE.—Return information shall be disclosed to members of the general public to the extent necessary to permit inspection of any accepted offer-in-compromise under section 7122 relating to the liability for a tax imposed by this title.

(2) DISCLOSURE OF AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING LIEN.—If a notice of lien has been filed pursuant to section 6323(f), the amount of the outstanding obligation secured by such lien may be disclosed to any person who furnishes satisfactory written evidence that he has a right in the property subject to such lien or intends to obtain a right in such property.

(3) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CORRECT MISSTATEMENTS OF FACT.—The Secretary may, but only following approval by the Joint Committee on Taxation, disclose such return information or any other information with respect to any specific taxpayer to the extent necessary for tax administration purposes to correct a misstatement of fact published or disclosed with respect to such taxpayer's return or any transaction of the taxpayer with the Internal Revenue Service.

(4) DISCLOSURE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY UNDER INCOME TAX CONVENTION.—A return or return information may be disclosed to a competent authority of a foreign government which has an income tax or gift and estate tax convention, or other convention or bilateral agreement relating to the exchange of tax information, with the United States but only to the extent provided in, and subject to the terms and conditions of, such convention or bilateral agreement.

(5) STATE AGENCIES REGULATING TAX RETURN PREPARERS.—Taxpayer identity information with respect to any tax return preparer, and information as to whether or not any penalty has been assessed against such tax return preparer under section 6694, 6695, or 7216, may be furnished to any agency, body, or commission lawfully charged under any State or local law with the licensing, registration, or regulation of tax return preparers. Such information may be furnished only upon written request by the head of such agency, body, or commission

designating the officers or employees to whom such information is to be furnished. Information may be furnished and used under this paragraph only for purposes of the licensing, registration, or regulation of tax return preparers.

(6) DISCLOSURE BY CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR INVESTIGATIVE PURPOSES.—An internal revenue officer or employee and an officer or employee of the Office of Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration may, in connection with his official duties relating to any audit, collection activity, or civil or criminal tax investigation or any other offense under the internal revenue laws, disclose return information to the extent that such disclosure is necessary in obtaining information, which is not otherwise reasonably available, with respect to the correct determination of tax, liability for tax, or the amount to be collected or with respect to the enforcement of any other provision of this title. Such disclosures shall be made only in such situations and under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

(7) DISCLOSURE OF EXCISE TAX REGISTRATION INFORMATION.—To the extent the Secretary determines that disclosure is necessary to permit the effective administration of subtitle D, the Secretary may disclose—

(A) the name, address, and registration number of each person who is registered under any provision of subtitle D (and, in the case of a registered terminal operator, the address of each terminal operated by such operator), and

(B) the registration status of any person.

(8) LEVIES ON CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS.—

(A) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION IN LEVIES ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE.—In serving a notice of levy, or release of such levy, with respect to any applicable government payment, the Secretary may disclose to officers and employees of the Financial Management Service—

(i) return information, including taxpayer identity information,

(ii) the amount of any unpaid liability under this title (including penalties and interest), and

(iii) the type of tax and tax period to which such unpaid liability relates.

(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used by officers and employees of the Financial Management Service only for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, transferring levied funds in satisfaction of the levy, maintaining appropriate agency records in regard to such levy or the release thereof, notifying the taxpayer and the agency certifying such payment that the levy has been honored, or in the defense of any litigation ensuing from the honor of such levy.

(C) APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT PAYMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “applicable government payment” means—

(i) any Federal payment (other than a payment for which eligibility is based on the income or assets (or

both) of a payee) certified to the Financial Management Service for disbursement, and

(ii) any other payment which is certified to the Financial Management Service for disbursement and which the Secretary designates by published notice.

(9) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO ADMINISTER SECTION 6311.—The Secretary may disclose returns or return information to financial institutions and others to the extent the Secretary deems necessary for the administration of section 6311. Disclosures of information for purposes other than to accept payments by checks or money orders shall be made only to the extent authorized by written procedures promulgated by the Secretary.

(10) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION TO CERTAIN PRISON OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under such procedures as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose to officers and employees of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and of any State agency charged with the responsibility for administration of prisons any returns or return information with respect to individuals incarcerated in Federal or State prison systems whom the Secretary has determined may have filed or facilitated the filing of a false or fraudulent return to the extent that the Secretary determines that such disclosure is necessary to permit effective Federal tax administration.

(B) DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTOR-RUN PRISONS.—Under such procedures as the Secretary may prescribe, the disclosures authorized by subparagraph (A) may be made to contractors responsible for the operation of a Federal or State prison on behalf of such Bureau or agency.

(C) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Any return or return information received under this paragraph shall be used only for the purposes of and to the extent necessary in taking administrative action to prevent the filing of false and fraudulent returns, including administrative actions to address possible violations of administrative rules and regulations of the prison facility and in administrative and judicial proceedings arising from such administrative actions.

(D) RESTRICTIONS ON REDISCLOSURE AND DISCLOSURE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Notwithstanding subsection (h)—

(i) RESTRICTIONS ON REDISCLOSURE.—Except as provided in clause (ii), any officer, employee, or contractor of the Federal Bureau of Prisons or of any State agency charged with the responsibility for administration of prisons shall not disclose any information obtained under this paragraph to any person other than an officer or employee or contractor of such Bureau or agency personally and directly engaged in the administration of prison facilities on behalf of such Bureau or agency.

(ii) DISCLOSURE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES.—The returns and return information disclosed under this

paragraph may be disclosed to the duly authorized legal representative of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, State agency, or contractor charged with the responsibility for administration of prisons, or of the incarcerated individual accused of filing the false or fraudulent return who is a party to an action or proceeding described in subparagraph (C), solely in preparation for, or for use in, such action or proceeding.

(11) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PURPOSES OF PASSPORT REVOCATION UNDER SECTION 7345.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, upon receiving a certification described in section 7345, disclose to the Secretary of State return information with respect to a taxpayer who has a seriously delinquent tax debt described in such section. Such return information shall be limited to—

- (i) the taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer, and
- (ii) the amount of such seriously delinquent tax debt.

(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used by officers and employees of the Department of State for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, carrying out the requirements of section 32101 of the FAST Act.

(12) QUALIFIED TAX COLLECTION CONTRACTORS.—Persons providing services pursuant to a qualified tax collection contract under section 6306 may, if speaking to a person who has identified himself or herself as having the name of the taxpayer to which a tax receivable (within the meaning of such section) relates, identify themselves as contractors of the Internal Revenue Service and disclose the business name of the contractor, and the nature, subject, and reason for the contact. Disclosures under this paragraph shall be made only in such situations and under such conditions as have been approved by the Secretary.

(13) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF CYBERSECURITY AND THE PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT TAX REFUND FRAUD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*Under such procedures and subject to such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose specified return information to specified ISAC participants to the extent that the Secretary determines such disclosure is in furtherance of effective Federal tax administration relating to the detection or prevention of identity theft tax refund fraud, validation of taxpayer identity, authentication of taxpayer returns, or detection or prevention of cybersecurity threats.*

(B) SPECIFIED ISAC PARTICIPANTS.—*For purposes of this paragraph—*

- (i) IN GENERAL.—*The term “specified ISAC participant” means—*

(I) any person designated by the Secretary as having primary responsibility for a function performed with respect to the information sharing

and analysis center described in section 403(a) of the 21st Century IRS Act, and

(II) any person subject to the requirements of section 7216 and which is a participant in such information sharing and analysis center.

(ii) **INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT.**—Such term shall not include any person unless such person has entered into a written agreement with the Secretary setting forth the terms and conditions for the disclosure of information to such person under this paragraph, including requirements regarding the protection and safeguarding of such information by such person.

(C) **SPECIFIED RETURN INFORMATION.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “specified return information” means—

(i) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of potential identity theft refund fraud—

(I) in the case of such return filed electronically, the internet protocol address, device identification, email domain name, speed of completion, method of authentication, refund method, and such other return information related to the electronic filing characteristics of such return as the Secretary may identify for purposes of this subclause, and

(II) in the case of such return prepared by a tax return preparer, identifying information with respect to such tax return preparer, including the preparer taxpayer identification number and electronic filer identification number of such preparer,

(ii) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of a identity theft refund fraud which has been confirmed by the Secretary (pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may provide), the information referred to in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i), the name and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer as it appears on the return, and any bank account and routing information provided for making a refund in connection with such return, and

(iii) in the case of any cybersecurity threat to the Internal Revenue Service, information similar to the information described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) with respect to such threat.

(D) **RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.**—

(i) **DESIGNATED THIRD PARTIES.**—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I) shall be used only for the purposes of and to the extent necessary in—

(I) performing the function such person is designated to perform under such subparagraph,

(II) facilitating disclosures authorized under subparagraph (A) to persons described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), and

(III) facilitating disclosures authorized under subsection (d) to participants in such information sharing and analysis center.

(ii) *RETURN PREPARERS.*—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) shall be treated for purposes of section 7216 as information furnished to such person for, or in connection with, the preparation of a return of the tax imposed under chapter 1.

(E) *DATA PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDS.*—Return information disclosed under this paragraph shall be subject to such protections and safeguards as the Secretary may require in regulations or other guidance or in the written agreement referred to in subparagraph (B)(ii). Such written agreement shall include a requirement that any unauthorized access to information disclosed under this paragraph, and any breach of any system in which such information is held, be reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

(1) **DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TAX ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD.**—The Secretary may, upon written request, disclose returns and return information with respect to—

(A) taxes imposed by chapters 2, 21, and 24, to the Social Security Administration for purposes of its administration of the Social Security Act;

(B) a plan to which part I of subchapter D of chapter 1 applies, to the Social Security Administration for purposes of carrying out its responsibility under section 1131 of the Social Security Act, limited, however to return information described in section 6057(d); and

(C) taxes imposed by chapter 22, to the Railroad Retirement Board for purposes of its administration of the Railroad Retirement Act.

(2) **DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION.**—The Secretary may, upon written request, furnish returns and return information to the proper officers and employees of the Department of Labor and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for purposes of, but only to the extent necessary in, the administration of titles I and IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(3) **DISCLOSURE THAT APPLICANT FOR FEDERAL LOAN HAS TAX DELINQUENT ACCOUNT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon written request, the Secretary may disclose to the head of the Federal agency administering any included Federal loan program whether or not an applicant for a loan under such program has a tax delinquent account.

(B) **RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.**—Any disclosure under subparagraph (A) shall be made only for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, determining the creditworthiness of the applicant for the loan in question.

(C) **INCLUDED FEDERAL LOAN PROGRAM DEFINED.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “included Federal loan program” means any program under which the

United States or a Federal agency makes, guarantees, or insures loans.

(4) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION FOR USE IN PERSONNEL OR CLAIMANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS.—The Secretary may disclose returns and return information—

(A) upon written request—

(i) to an employee or former employee of the Department of the Treasury, or to the duly authorized legal representative of such employee or former employee, who is or may be a party to any administrative action or proceeding affecting the personnel rights of such employee or former employee; or

(ii) to any person, or to the duly authorized legal representative of such person, whose rights are or may be affected by an administrative action or proceeding under section 330 of title 31, United States Code,

solely for use in the action or proceeding, or in preparation for the action or proceeding, but only to the extent that the Secretary determines that such returns or return information is or may be relevant and material to the action or proceeding; or

(B) to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury for use in any action or proceeding described in subparagraph (A), or in preparation for such action or proceeding, to the extent necessary to advance or protect the interests of the United States.

(5) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—Upon written request by the Commissioner of Social Security, the Secretary may disclose information returns filed pursuant to part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of this subtitle for the purpose of—

(A) carrying out, in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to section 232 of the Social Security Act, an effective return processing program; or

(B) providing information regarding the mortality status of individuals for epidemiological and similar research in accordance with section 1106(d) of the Social Security Act.

(6) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

(A) RETURN INFORMATION FROM INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—The Secretary may, upon written request, disclose to the appropriate Federal, State, or local child support enforcement agency—

(i) available return information from the master files of the Internal Revenue Service relating to the social security account number (or numbers, if the individual involved has more than one such number), address, filing status, amounts and nature of income, and the number of dependents reported on any return filed by, or with respect to, any individual with respect to whom child support obligations are sought to be established or enforced pursuant to the provisions of part D of title IV of the Social Security Act and with respect to any individual to whom such support obligations are owing, and

(ii) available return information reflected on any return filed by, or with respect to, any individual described in clause (i) relating to the amount of such individual's gross income (as defined in section 61) or consisting of the names and addresses of payors of such income and the names of any dependents reported on such return, but only if such return information is not reasonably available from any other source.

(B) DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN AGENTS.—The following information disclosed to any child support enforcement agency under subparagraph (A) with respect to any individual with respect to whom child support obligations are sought to be established or enforced may be disclosed by such agency to any agent of such agency which is under contract with such agency to carry out the purposes described in subparagraph (C):

(i) The address and social security account number (or numbers) of such individual.

(ii) The amount of any reduction under section 6402(c) (relating to offset of past-due support against overpayments) in any overpayment otherwise payable to such individual.

(C) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—Information may be disclosed under this paragraph only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and collecting child support obligations from, and locating, individuals owing such obligations.

(7) Disclosure of return information to Federal, State, and local agencies administering certain programs under the Social Security Act, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 of 1977, or title 38, United States Code, or certain housing assistance programs

(A) RETURN INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall, upon written request, disclose return information from returns with respect to net earnings from self-employment (as defined in section 1402), wages (as defined in section 3121(a) or 3401(a)), and payments of retirement income, which have been disclosed to the Social Security Administration as provided by paragraph (1) or (5) of this subsection, to any Federal, State, or local agency administering a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(B) RETURN INFORMATION FROM INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—The Secretary shall, upon written request, disclose current return information from returns with respect to unearned income from the Internal Revenue Service files to any Federal, State, or local agency administering a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(C) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall disclose return information under subparagraphs (A) and (B) only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, determining eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under a program listed in subparagraph (D).

(D) PROGRAMS TO WHICH RULE APPLIES.—The programs to which this paragraph applies are:

(i) a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;

(ii) medical assistance provided under a State plan approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act or subsidies provided under section 1860D-14 of such Act;

(iii) supplemental security income benefits provided under title XVI of the Social Security Act, and federally administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of such Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Public Law 93-66);

(iv) any benefits provided under a State plan approved under title I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act (as those titles apply to Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands);

(v) unemployment compensation provided under a State law described in section 3304 of this title;

(vi) assistance provided under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(vii) State-administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Public Law 93-66);

(viii)(I) any needs-based pension provided under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, or under any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(II) parents' dependency and indemnity compensation provided under section 1315 of title 38, United States Code;

(III) health-care services furnished under sections 1710(a)(2)(G), 1710(a)(3), and 1710(b) of such title; and

(IV) compensation paid under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, at the 100 percent rate based solely on unemployability and without regard to the fact that the disability or disabilities are not rated as 100 percent disabling under the rating schedule; and

(ix) any housing assistance program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that involves initial and periodic review of an applicant's or participant's income, except that return information may be disclosed under this clause only on written request by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and only for use by officers and employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to applicants for and participants in such programs.

Only return information from returns with respect to net earnings from self-employment and wages may be dis-

closed under this paragraph for use with respect to any program described in clause (viii)(IV).

(8) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURN INFORMATION BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request, the Commissioner of Social Security shall disclose directly to officers and employees of a Federal or State or local child support enforcement agency return information from returns with respect to social security account numbers, net earnings from self-employment (as defined in section 1402), wages (as defined in section 3121(a) or 3401(a)), and payments of retirement income which have been disclosed to the Social Security Administration as provided by paragraph (1) or (5) of this subsection.

(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall disclose return information under subparagraph (A) only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and collecting child support obligations from, and locating, individuals owing such obligations. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “child support obligations” only includes obligations which are being enforced pursuant to a plan described in section 454 of the Social Security Act which has been approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under part D of title IV of such Act.

(C) STATE OR LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “State or local child support enforcement agency” means any agency of a State or political subdivision thereof operating pursuant to a plan described in subparagraph (B).

(9) DISCLOSURE OF ALCOHOL FUEL PRODUCERS TO ADMINISTRATORS OF STATE ALCOHOL LAWS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary may disclose—

(A) the name and address of any person who is qualified to produce alcohol for fuel use under section 5181, and

(B) the location of any premises to be used by such person in producing alcohol for fuel, to any State agency, body, or commission, or its legal representative, which is charged under the laws of such State with responsibility for administration of State alcohol laws solely for use in the administration of such laws.

(10) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO AGENCIES REQUESTING A REDUCTION UNDER SUBSECTION (C), (D), (E), OR (F) OF SECTION 6402.—

(A) RETURN INFORMATION FROM INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—The Secretary may, upon receiving a written request, disclose to officers and employees of any agency seeking a reduction under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 6402, to officers and employees of the Department of Labor for purposes of facilitating the exchange of data in connection with a request made under subsection (f)(5) of section 6402, and to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury in connection with such reduction—

(i) taxpayer identity information with respect to the taxpayer against whom such a reduction was made or not made and with respect to any other person filing a joint return with such taxpayer,

(ii) the fact that a reduction has been made or has not been made under such subsection with respect to such taxpayer,

(iii) the amount of such reduction,

(iv) whether such taxpayer filed a joint return, and

(v) the fact that a payment was made (and the amount of the payment) to the spouse of the taxpayer on the basis of a joint return.

(B)(i) Restriction on use of disclosed information

Any officers and employees of an agency receiving return information under subparagraph (A) shall use such information only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing appropriate agency records, locating any person with respect to whom a reduction under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 6402 is sought for purposes of collecting the debt with respect to which the reduction is sought, or in the defense of any litigation or administrative procedure ensuing from a reduction made under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 6402 and to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury in connection with such reduction.

(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), return information disclosed to officers and employees of the Department of Labor may be accessed by agents who maintain and provide technological support to the Department of Labor's Interstate Connection Network (ICON) solely for the purpose of providing such maintenance and support.

(11) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall, on written request, disclose to the Office of Personnel Management return information from returns with respect to net earnings from self-employment (as defined in section 1402), wages (as defined in section 3121(a) or 3401(a)), and payments of retirement income, which have been disclosed to the Social Security Administration as provided by paragraph (1) or (5).

(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall disclose return information under subparagraph (A) only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, the administration of chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code.

(12) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN TAXPAYER IDENTITY INFORMATION FOR VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MEDICARE BENEFICIARY AND SPOUSE OF MEDICARE BENEFICIARY.—

(A) RETURN INFORMATION FROM INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Commissioner of Social Security, disclose to the Commissioner available filing status and taxpayer identity information from the individual master files of the Internal

Revenue Service relating to whether any medicare beneficiary identified by the Commissioner was a married individual (as defined in section 7703) for any specified year after 1986, and, if so, the name of the spouse of such individual and such spouse's TIN.

(B) RETURN INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall, upon written request from the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, disclose to the Administrator the following information:

(i) The name and TIN of each medicare beneficiary who is identified as having received wages (as defined in section 3401(a)), above an amount (if any) specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, from a qualified employer in a previous year.

(ii) For each medicare beneficiary who was identified as married under subparagraph (A) and whose spouse is identified as having received wages, above an amount (if any) specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, from a qualified employer in a previous year—

(I) the name and TIN of the medicare beneficiary, and

(II) the name and TIN of the spouse.

(iii) With respect to each such qualified employer, the name, address, and TIN of the employer and the number of individuals with respect to whom written statements were furnished under section 6051 by the employer with respect to such previous year.

(C) DISCLOSURE BY CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES.—With respect to the information disclosed under subparagraph (B), the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may disclose—

(i) to the qualified employer referred to in such subparagraph the name and TIN of each individual identified under such subparagraph as having received wages from the employer (hereinafter in this subparagraph referred to as the “employee”) for purposes of determining during what period such employee or the employee's spouse may be (or have been) covered under a group health plan of the employer and what benefits are or were covered under the plan (including the name, address, and identifying number of the plan),

(ii) to any group health plan which provides or provided coverage to such an employee or spouse, the name of such employee and the employee's spouse (if the spouse is a medicare beneficiary) and the name and address of the employer, and, for the purpose of presenting a claim to the plan—

(I) the TIN of such employee if benefits were paid under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the employee during a period in which the plan was a primary plan (as defined in

section 1862(b)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act), and

(II) the TIN of such spouse if benefits were paid under such title with respect to the spouse during such period, and

(iii) to any agent of such Administrator the information referred to in subparagraph (B) for purposes of carrying out clauses (i) and (ii) on behalf of such Administrator.

(D) SPECIAL RULES.—

(i) RESTRICTIONS ON DISCLOSURE.—Information may be disclosed under this paragraph only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, determining the extent to which any medicare beneficiary is covered under any group health plan.

(ii) TIMELY RESPONSE TO REQUESTS.—Any request made under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be complied with as soon as possible but in no event later than 120 days after the date the request was made.

(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

(i) MEDICARE BENEFICIARY.—The term “medicare beneficiary” means an individual entitled to benefits under part A, or enrolled under part B, of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, but does not include such an individual enrolled in part A under section 1818.

(ii) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term “group health plan” means any group health plan (as defined in section 5000(b)(1)).

(iii) QUALIFIED EMPLOYER.—The term “qualified employer” means, for a calendar year, an employer which has furnished written statements under section 6051 with respect to at least 20 individuals for wages paid in the year.

(13) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT INCOME CONTINGENT REPAYMENT OF STUDENT LOANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon written request from the Secretary of Education, disclose to officers and employees of the Department of Education return information with respect to a taxpayer who has received an applicable student loan and whose loan repayment amounts are based in whole or in part on the taxpayer’s income. Such return information shall be limited to—

(i) taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer,

(ii) the filing status of such taxpayer, and

(iii) the adjusted gross income of such taxpayer.

(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used by officers and employees of the Department of Education only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing the appropriate income contingent repayment amount for an applicable student loan.

(C) APPLICABLE STUDENT LOAN.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “applicable student loan” means—

(i) any loan made under the program authorized under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and

(ii) any loan made under part B or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 which is in default and has been assigned to the Department of Education.

(D) TERMINATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to any request made after December 31, 2007.

(14) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE.—The Secretary may, upon written request from the Commissioner of the United States Customs Service, disclose to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury such return information with respect to taxes imposed by chapters 1 and 6 as the Secretary may prescribe by regulations, solely for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in—

(A) ascertaining the correctness of any entry in audits as provided for in section 509 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1509), or

(B) other actions to recover any loss of revenue, or to collect duties, taxes, and fees, determined to be due and owing pursuant to such audits.

(15) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS FILED UNDER SECTION 6050I.—The Secretary may, upon written request, disclose to officers and employees of—

(A) any Federal agency,

(B) any agency of a State or local government, or

(C) any agency of the government of a foreign country, information contained on returns filed under section 6050I. Any such disclosure shall be made on the same basis, and subject to the same conditions, as apply to disclosures of information on reports filed under section 5313 of title 31, United States Code; except that no disclosure under this paragraph shall be made for purposes of the administration of any tax law.

(16) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1997.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request available return information (including such information disclosed to the Social Security Administration under paragraph (1) or (5) of this subsection), relating to the amount of wage income (as defined in section 3121(a) or 3401(a)), the name, address, and identifying number assigned under section 6109, of payors of wage income, taxpayer identity (as defined in subsection 6103 (b)(6)), and the occupational status reflected on any return filed by, or with respect to, any individual with respect to whom eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997, is sought to be determined, shall be disclosed by the Commissioner of Social Security, or to the extent not available from the Social Security Administration, by the Secretary, to any duly authorized officer or employee of the Department of the

Treasury, or a Trustee or any designated officer or employee of a Trustee (as defined in the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997), or any actuary engaged by a Trustee under the terms of the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997, whose official duties require such disclosure, solely for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, determining an individual's eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997.

(B) DISCLOSURE FOR USE IN JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—Return information disclosed to any person under this paragraph may be disclosed in a judicial or administrative proceeding relating to the determination of an individual's eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997.

(17) DISCLOSURE TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Archivist of the United States, disclose or authorize the disclosure of returns and return information to officers and employees of the National Archives and Records Administration for purposes of, and only to the extent necessary in, the appraisal of records for destruction or retention. No such officer or employee shall, except to the extent authorized by subsection (f), (i)(8), or (p), disclose any return or return information disclosed under the preceding sentence to any person other than to the Secretary, or to another officer or employee of the National Archives and Records Administration whose official duties require such disclosure for purposes of such appraisal.

(18) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT A PROGRAM FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT OF CREDIT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary may disclose to providers of health insurance for any certified individual (as defined in section 7527(c)) return information with respect to such certified individual only to the extent necessary to carry out the program established by section 7527 (relating to advance payment of credit for health insurance costs of eligible individuals).

(19) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDICARE DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, upon written request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to carrying out section 1860D-31 of the Social Security Act, shall disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to a taxpayer for the applicable year—

(i)(I) whether the adjusted gross income, as modified in accordance with specifications of the Secretary of Health and Human Services for purposes of carrying out such section, of such taxpayer and, if applicable, such taxpayer's spouse, for the applicable year, exceeds the amounts specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to apply the 100 and 135

percent of the poverty lines under such section, (II) whether the return was a joint return, and (III) the applicable year, or

(ii) if applicable, the fact that there is no return filed for such taxpayer for the applicable year.

(B) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE YEAR.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term “applicable year” means the most recent taxable year for which information is available in the Internal Revenue Service’s taxpayer data information systems, or, if there is no return filed for such taxpayer for such year, the prior taxable year.

(C) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed under this paragraph may be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility for and administering transitional assistance under section 1860D-31 of the Social Security Act.

(20) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM SUBSIDY ADJUSTMENT AND PART D BASE BENEFICIARY PREMIUM INCREASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Commissioner of Social Security, disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the Social Security Administration return information of a taxpayer whose premium (according to the records of the Secretary) may be subject to adjustment under section 1839(i) or increase under section 1860D-13(a)(7) of the Social Security Act. Such return information shall be limited to—

(i) taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer,

(ii) the filing status of such taxpayer,

(iii) the adjusted gross income of such taxpayer,

(iv) the amounts excluded from such taxpayer’s gross income under sections 135 and 911 to the extent such information is available,

(v) the interest received or accrued during the taxable year which is exempt from the tax imposed by chapter 1 to the extent such information is available,

(vi) the amounts excluded from such taxpayer’s gross income by sections 931 and 933 to the extent such information is available,

(vii) such other information relating to the liability of the taxpayer as is prescribed by the Secretary by regulation as might indicate in the case of a taxpayer who is an individual described in subsection (i)(4)(B)(iii) of section 1839 of the Social Security Act that the amount of the premium of the taxpayer under such section may be subject to adjustment under subsection (i) of such section or increase under section 1860D-13(a)(7) of such Act and the amount of such adjustment, and

(viii) the taxable year with respect to which the preceding information relates.

(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used by officers, employees,

and contractors of the Social Security Administration only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing the appropriate amount of any premium adjustment under such section 1839(i) or increase under such section 1860D-13(a)(7) or for the purpose of resolving taxpayer appeals with respect to any such premium adjustment or increase.

(ii) DISCLOSURE TO OTHER AGENCIES.—Officers, employees, and contractors of the Social Security Administration may disclose—

(I) the taxpayer identity information and the amount of the premium subsidy adjustment or premium increase with respect to a taxpayer described in subparagraph (A) to officers, employees, and contractors of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the collection of the premium subsidy amount or the increased premium amount,

(II) the taxpayer identity information and the amount of the premium subsidy adjustment or the increased premium amount with respect to a taxpayer described in subparagraph (A) to officers and employees of the Office of Personnel Management and the Railroad Retirement Board, to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the collection of the premium subsidy amount or the increased premium amount,

(III) return information with respect to a taxpayer described in subparagraph (A) to officers and employees of the Department of Health and Human Services to the extent necessary to resolve administrative appeals of such premium subsidy adjustment or increased premium, and

(IV) return information with respect to a taxpayer described in subparagraph (A) to officers and employees of the Department of Justice for use in judicial proceedings to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes described in clause (i).

(21) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, upon written request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the Department of Health and Human Services return information of any taxpayer whose income is relevant in determining any premium tax credit under section 36B or any cost-sharing reduction under section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or eligibility for participation in a State medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, a State's children's health insurance program under title XXI of the Social Security Act, or a basic health program under section 1331 of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Such return information shall be limited to—

- (i) taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer,
- (ii) the filing status of such taxpayer,
- (iii) the number of individuals for whom a deduction is allowed under section 151 with respect to the taxpayer (including the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse),
- (iv) the modified adjusted gross income (as defined in section 36B) of such taxpayer and each of the other individuals included under clause (iii) who are required to file a return of tax imposed by chapter 1 for the taxable year,
- (v) such other information as is prescribed by the Secretary by regulation as might indicate whether the taxpayer is eligible for such credit or reduction (and the amount thereof), and
- (vi) the taxable year with respect to which the preceding information relates or, if applicable, the fact that such information is not available.

(B) INFORMATION TO EXCHANGE AND STATE AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may disclose to an Exchange established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or its contractors, or to a State agency administering a State program described in subparagraph (A) or its contractors, any inconsistency between the information provided by the Exchange or State agency to the Secretary and the information provided to the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(C) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) or (B) may be used by officers, employees, and contractors of the Department of Health and Human Services, an Exchange, or a State agency only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in—

- (i) establishing eligibility for participation in the Exchange, and verifying the appropriate amount of, any credit or reduction described in subparagraph (A),
- (ii) determining eligibility for participation in the State programs described in subparagraph (A).

(22) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR PURPOSES OF ENHANCING MEDICARE PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, disclose to officers and employees of the Department of Health and Human Services return information with respect to a taxpayer who has applied to enroll, or reenroll, as a provider of services or supplier under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Such return information shall be limited to—

- (i) the taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer;
- (ii) the amount of the delinquent tax debt owed by that taxpayer; and

(iii) the taxable year to which the delinquent tax debt pertains.

(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be used by officers and employees of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing the taxpayer's eligibility for enrollment or reenrollment in the Medicare program, or in any administrative or judicial proceeding relating to, or arising from, a denial of such enrollment or reenrollment, or in determining the level of enhanced oversight to be applied with respect to such taxpayer pursuant to section 1866(j)(3) of the Social Security Act.

(C) DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “delinquent tax debt” means an outstanding debt under this title for which a notice of lien has been filed pursuant to section 6323, but the term does not include a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or 7122, or a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 is requested, pending, or completed and no payment is required.

(m) DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER IDENTITY INFORMATION.—

(1) TAX REFUNDS.—The Secretary may disclose taxpayer identity information to the press and other media for purposes of notifying persons entitled to tax refunds when the Secretary, after reasonable effort and lapse of time, has been unable to locate such persons.

(2) FEDERAL CLAIMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, upon written request, disclose the mailing address of a taxpayer for use by officers, employees, or agents of a Federal agency for purposes of locating such taxpayer to collect or compromise a Federal claim against the taxpayer in accordance with sections 3711, 3717, and 3718 of title 31.

(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY.—In the case of an agent of a Federal agency which is a consumer reporting agency (within the meaning of section 603(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(f))), the mailing address of a taxpayer may be disclosed to such agent under subparagraph (A) only for the purpose of allowing such agent to prepare a commercial credit report on the taxpayer for use by such Federal agency in accordance with sections 3711, 3717, and 3718 of title 31.

(3) NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.—Upon written request, the Secretary may disclose the mailing address of taxpayers to officers and employees of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health solely for the purpose of locating individuals who are, or may have been, exposed to occupational hazards in order to determine the status of their health or to inform them of the possible need for medical care and treatment.

(4) INDIVIDUALS WHO OWE AN OVERPAYMENT OF FEDERAL PELL GRANTS OR WHO HAVE DEFAULTED ON STUDENT LOANS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request by the Secretary of Education, the Secretary may disclose the mailing address of any taxpayer—

(i) who owes an overpayment of a grant awarded to such taxpayer under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or

(ii) who has defaulted on a loan—

(I) made under part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or

(II) made pursuant to section 3(a)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 to a student at an institution of higher education,

for use only by officers, employees, or agents of the Department of Education for purposes of locating such taxpayer for purposes of collecting such overpayment or loan.

(B) DISCLOSURE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—Any mailing address disclosed under subparagraph (A)(i) may be disclosed by the Secretary of Education to—

(i) any lender, or any State or nonprofit guarantee agency, which is participating under part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or

(ii) any educational institution with which the Secretary of Education has an agreement under subpart 1 of part A, or part D or E, of title IV of such Act,

for use only by officers, employees, or agents of such lender, guarantee agency, or institution whose duties relate to the collection of student loans for purposes of locating individuals who have defaulted on student loans made under such loan programs for purposes of collecting such loans.

(5) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEFAULTED ON STUDENT LOANS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary may disclose the mailing address of any taxpayer who has defaulted on a loan made under part C of title VII of the Public Health Service Act or under subpart II of part B of title VIII of such Act, for use only by officers, employees, or agents of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of locating such taxpayer for purposes of collecting such loan.

(B) DISCLOSURE TO SCHOOLS AND ELIGIBLE LENDERS.—Any mailing address disclosed under subparagraph (A) may be disclosed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to—

(i) any school with which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has an agreement under subpart II of part C of title VII of the Public Health Service Act or subpart II of part B of title VIII of such Act, or

(ii) any eligible lender (within the meaning of section 737(4) of such Act) participating under subpart I of part C of title VII of such Act, for use only by officers, employees, or agents of such school or eligible lender whose duties relate to the collection of student loans for purposes of locating individuals who have defaulted on student loans made under such subparts for the purposes of collecting such loans.

(6) BLOOD DONOR LOCATOR SERVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request pursuant to section 1141 of the Social Security Act, the Secretary shall disclose the mailing address of taxpayers to officers and employees of the Blood Donor Locator Service in the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary shall disclose return information under subparagraph (A) only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, assisting under the Blood Donor Locator Service authorized persons (as defined in section 1141(h)(1) of the Social Security Act) in locating blood donors who, as indicated by donated blood or products derived therefrom or by the history of the subsequent use of such blood or blood products, have or may have the virus for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, in order to inform such donors of the possible need for medical care and treatment.

(C) SAFEGUARDS.—The Secretary shall destroy all related blood donor records (as defined in section 1141(h)(2) of the Social Security Act) in the possession of the Department of the Treasury upon completion of their use in making the disclosure required under subparagraph (A), so as to make such records undisclosable.

(7) SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENT FURNISHED BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—Upon written request by the Commissioner of Social Security, the Secretary may disclose the mailing address of any taxpayer who is entitled to receive a social security account statement pursuant to section 1143(c) of the Social Security Act, for use only by officers, employees or agents of the Social Security Administration for purposes of mailing such statement to such taxpayer.

(n) CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS.—Pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, returns and return information may be disclosed to any person, including any person described in section 7513(a), to the extent necessary in connection with the processing, storage, transmission, and reproduction of such returns and return information, the programming, maintenance, repair, testing, and procurement of equipment, and the providing of other services, for purposes of tax administration.

(o) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TAXES.—

(1) TAXES IMPOSED BY SUBTITLE E.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Returns and return information with respect to taxes imposed by subtitle E (relating to taxes on alcohol, tobacco, and firearms) shall be open to inspection by or disclosure to officers and employees of a Federal

agency whose official duties require such inspection or disclosure.

(B) USE IN CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.—Returns and return information disclosed to a Federal agency under subparagraph (A) may be used in an action or proceeding (or in preparation for such action or proceeding) brought under section 625 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 for the collection of any unpaid assessment or penalty arising under such Act.

(2) TAXES IMPOSED BY CHAPTER 35.—Returns and return information with respect to taxes imposed by chapter 35 (relating to taxes on wagering) shall, notwithstanding any other provision of this section, be open to inspection by or disclosure only to such person or persons and for such purpose or purposes as are prescribed by section 4424.

(p) PROCEDURE AND RECORDKEEPING.—

(1) MANNER, TIME, AND PLACE OF INSPECTIONS.—Requests for the inspection or disclosure of a return or return information and such inspection or disclosure shall be made in such manner and at such time and place as shall be prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) PROCEDURE.—

(A) REPRODUCTION OF RETURNS.—A reproduction or certified reproduction of a return shall, upon written request, be furnished to any person to whom disclosure or inspection of such return is authorized under this section. A reasonable fee may be prescribed for furnishing such reproduction or certified reproduction.

(B) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed to any person under the provisions of this title may be provided in the form of written documents, reproductions of such documents, films or photoimpressions, or electronically produced tapes, disks, or records, or by any other mode or means which the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate. A reasonable fee may be prescribed for furnishing such return information.

(C) USE OF REPRODUCTIONS.—Any reproduction of any return, document, or other matter made in accordance with this paragraph shall have the same legal status as the original, and any such reproduction shall, if properly authenticated, be admissible in evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding as if it were the original, whether or not the original is in existence.

(3) RECORDS OF INSPECTION AND DISCLOSURE.—

(A) SYSTEM OF RECORDKEEPING.—Except as otherwise provided by this paragraph, the Secretary shall maintain a permanent system of standardized records or accountings of all requests for inspection or disclosure of returns and return information (including the reasons for and dates of such requests) and of returns and return information inspected or disclosed under this section and section 6104(c). Notwithstanding the provisions of section 552a(c) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary shall not be required to maintain a record or accounting of requests for inspection or disclosure of returns and return information,

or of returns and return information inspected or disclosed, under the authority of subsections (c), (e), (f)(5), (h)(1), (3)(A), or (4), (i)(4), or (8)(A)(ii), (k)(1), (2), (6), (8), or (9), (l)(1), (4)(B), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), or (18), (m), or (n). The records or accountings required to be maintained under this paragraph shall be available for examination by the Joint Committee on Taxation or the Chief of Staff of such joint committee. Such record or accounting shall also be available for examination by such person or persons as may be, but only to the extent, authorized to make such examination under section 552a(c)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, furnish to the Joint Committee on Taxation a report with respect to, or summary of, the records or accountings described in subparagraph (A) in such form and containing such information as such joint committee or the Chief of Staff of such joint committee may designate. Such report or summary shall not, however, include a record or accounting of any request by the President under subsection (g) for, or the disclosure in response to such request of, any return or return information with respect to any individual who, at the time of such request, was an officer or employee of the executive branch of the Federal Government. Such report or summary, or any part thereof, may be disclosed by such joint committee to such persons and for such purposes as the joint committee may, by record vote of a majority of the members of the joint committee, determine.

(C) PUBLIC REPORT ON DISCLOSURES.—The Secretary shall, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, furnish to the Joint Committee on Taxation for disclosure to the public a report with respect to the records or accountings described in subparagraph (A) which—

(i) provides with respect to each Federal agency, each agency, body, or commission described in subsection (d), (i)(3)(B)(i) or (7)(A)(ii), or (l)(6), and the Government Accountability Office the number of—

(I) requests for disclosure of returns and return information,

(II) instances in which returns and return information were disclosed pursuant to such requests or otherwise,

(III) taxpayers whose returns, or return information with respect to whom, were disclosed pursuant to such requests, and

(ii) describes the general purposes for which such requests were made,

(4) SAFEGUARDS.—Any Federal agency described in subsection (h)(2), (h)(5), (i)(1), (2), (3), (5), or (7), (j)(1), (2), or (5), (k)(8), (10), or (11), (l)(1), (2), (3), (5), (10), (11), (13), (14), (17), or (22) or (o)(1)(A), the Government Accountability Office, the Congressional Budget Office, or any agency, body, or commission described in subsection (d), (i)(1)(C), (3)(B)(i), or 7(A)(ii), or

(k)(10), (l)(6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (15), or (16), any appropriate State officer (as defined in section 6104(c)), or any other person described in subsection (k)(10), subsection (l)(10), (16), (18), (19), or (20), or any entity described in subsection (l)(21), shall, as a condition for receiving returns or return information—

(A) establish and maintain, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, a permanent system of standardized records with respect to any request, the reason for such request, and the date of such request made by or of it and any disclosure of return or return information made by or to it;

(B) establish and maintain, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, a secure area or place in which such returns or return information shall be stored;

(C) restrict, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, access to the returns or return information only to persons whose duties or responsibilities require access and to whom disclosure may be made under the provisions of this title;

(D) provide such other safeguards which the Secretary determines (and which he prescribes in regulations) to be necessary or appropriate to protect the confidentiality of the returns or return information;

(E) furnish a report to the Secretary, at such time and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe, which describes the procedures established and utilized by such agency, body, or commission, the Government Accountability Office, or the Congressional Budget Office for ensuring the confidentiality of returns and return information required by this paragraph; and

(F) upon completion of use of such returns or return information—

(i) in the case of an agency, body, or commission described in subsection (d), (i)(3)(B)(i), (k)(10), or (l)(6), (7), (8), (9), or (16), any appropriate State officer (as defined in section 6104(c)), or any other person described in subsection (k)(10) or subsection (l)(10), (16), (18), (19), or (20) return to the Secretary such returns or return information (along with any copies made therefrom) or make such returns or return information undisclosable in any manner and furnish a written report to the Secretary describing such manner,

(ii) in the case of an agency described in subsections (h)(2), (h)(5), (i)(1), (2), (3), (5) or (7), (j)(1), (2), or (5), (k)(8), (10), or (11), (l)(1), (2), (3), (5), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (17), or (22), or (o)(1)(A) or any entity described in subsection (l)(21),, the Government Accountability Office, or the Congressional Budget Office, either—

(I) return to the Secretary such returns or return information (along with any copies made therefrom),

(II) otherwise make such returns or return information undisclosable, or

(III) to the extent not so returned or made undisclosable, ensure that the conditions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) of this para-

graph continue to be met with respect to such returns or return information, and

(iii) in the case of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of subsection (m)(6), destroy all such return information upon completion of its use in providing the notification for which the information was obtained, so as to make such information undisclosable;

except that the conditions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) shall cease to apply with respect to any return or return information if, and to the extent that, such return or return information is disclosed in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding and made a part of the public record thereof. If the Secretary determines that any such agency, body, or commission, including an agency, an appropriate State officer (as defined in section 6104(c)), or any other person described in subsection (k)(10) or subsection (l)(10), (16), (18), (19), or (20) or any entity described in subsection (l)(21), or the Government Accountability Office or the Congressional Budget Office, has failed to, or does not, meet the requirements of this paragraph, he may, after any proceedings for review established under paragraph (7), take such actions as are necessary to ensure such requirements are met, including refusing to disclose returns or return information to such agency, body, or commission, including an agency, an appropriate State officer (as defined in section 6104(c)), or any other person described in subsection (k)(10) or subsection (l)(10), (16), (18), (19), or (20) or any entity described in subsection (l)(21), or the Government Accountability Office or the Congressional Budget Office, until he determines that such requirements have been or will be met. In the case of any agency which receives any mailing address under paragraph (2), (4), (6), or (7) of subsection (m) and which discloses any such mailing address to any agent or which receives any information under paragraph (6)(A), (10), (12)(B), or (16) of subsection (l) and which discloses any such information to any agent, or any person including an agent described in subsection (l)(10) or (16), this paragraph shall apply to such agency and each such agent or other person (except that, in the case of an agent, or any person including an agent described in subsection (l)(10) or (16), any report to the Secretary or other action with respect to the Secretary shall be made or taken through such agency). For purposes of applying this paragraph in any case to which subsection (m)(6) applies, the term "return information" includes related blood donor records (as defined in section 1141(h)(2) of the Social Security Act).

(5) REPORT ON PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS.—After the close of each calendar year, the Secretary shall furnish to each committee described in subsection (f)(1) a report which describes the procedures and safeguards established and utilized by such agencies, bodies, or commissions, the Government Accountability Office, and the Congressional Budget Office for ensuring the confidentiality of returns and return information as required by this subsection. Such report shall also describe in-

stances of deficiencies in, and failure to establish or utilize, such procedures.

(6) AUDIT OF PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS.—

(A) AUDIT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General may audit the procedures and safeguards established by such agencies, bodies, or commissions and the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to this subsection to determine whether such safeguards and procedures meet the requirements of this subsection and ensure the confidentiality of returns and return information. The Comptroller General shall notify the Secretary before any such audit is conducted.

(B) RECORDS OF INSPECTION AND REPORTS BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall—

(i) maintain a permanent system of standardized records and accountings of returns and return information inspected by officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office under subsection (i)(8)(A)(ii) and shall, within 90 days after the close of each calendar year, furnish to the Secretary a report with respect to, or summary of, such records or accountings in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe, and

(ii) furnish an annual report to each committee described in subsection (f) and to the Secretary setting forth his findings with respect to any audit conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).

The Secretary may disclose to the Joint Committee any report furnished to him under clause (i).

(7) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall by regulations prescribe procedures which provide for administrative review of any determination under paragraph (4) that any agency, body, or commission described in subsection (d) has failed to meet the requirements of such paragraph.

(8) STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) SAFEGUARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed after December 31, 1978, to any officer or employee of any State which requires a taxpayer to attach to, or include in, any State tax return a copy of any portion of his Federal return, or information reflected on such Federal return, unless such State adopts provisions of law which protect the confidentiality of the copy of the Federal return (or portion thereof) attached to, or the Federal return information reflected on, such State tax return.

(B) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS OR RETURN INFORMATION IN STATE RETURNS.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) or paragraph (9) shall be construed to prohibit the disclosure by an officer or employee of any State of any copy of any portion of a Federal return or any information on a Federal return which is required to be attached or included in a State return to another officer or employee of such State (or political subdivision of such State) if such disclosure is specifically authorized by State law.

(9) *DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHER AGENTS.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed to any contractor or other agent of a Federal, State, or local agency unless such agency, to the satisfaction of the Secretary—

(A) has requirements in effect which require each such contractor or other agent which would have access to returns or return information to provide safeguards (within the meaning of paragraph (4)) to protect the confidentiality of such returns or return information,

(B) agrees to conduct an on-site review every 3 years (or a mid-point review in the case of contracts or agreements of less than 3 years in duration) of each contractor or other agent to determine compliance with such requirements,

(C) submits the findings of the most recent review conducted under subparagraph (B) to the Secretary as part of the report required by paragraph (4)(E), and

(D) certifies to the Secretary for the most recent annual period that such contractor or other agent is in compliance with all such requirements.

The certification required by subparagraph (D) shall include the name and address of each contractor and other agent, a description of the contract or agreement with such contractor or other agent, and the duration of such contract or agreement. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to disclosures pursuant to subsection (n) for purposes of Federal tax administration.

(q) *REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary is authorized to prescribe such other regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

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CHAPTER 64—COLLECTION

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Subchapter B—Receipt of Payment

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SEC. 6311. PAYMENT OF TAX BY COMMERCIALY ACCEPTABLE MEANS.

(a) *AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE.*—It shall be lawful for the Secretary to receive for internal revenue taxes (or in payment for internal revenue stamps) any commercially acceptable means that the Secretary deems appropriate to the extent and under the conditions provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) *ULTIMATE LIABILITY.*—If a check, money order, or other method of payment, including payment by credit card, debit card, or charge card so received is not duly paid, or is paid and subsequently charged back to the Secretary, the person by whom such check, or money order, or other method of payment has been tendered shall remain liable for the payment of the tax or for the stamps, and for all legal penalties and additions, to the same extent as if such check, money order, or other method of payment had not been tendered.

(c) LIABILITY OF BANKS AND OTHERS.—If any certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check (or other guaranteed draft), or any money order, or any other means of payment that has been guaranteed by a financial institution (such as a credit card, debit card, or charge card transaction which has been guaranteed expressly by a financial institution) so received is not duly paid, the United States shall, in addition to its right to exact payment from the party originally indebted therefor, have a lien for—

(1) the amount of such check (or draft) upon all assets of the financial institution on which drawn,

(2) the amount of such money order upon all the assets of the issuer thereof, or

(3) the guaranteed amount of any other transaction upon all the assets of the institution making such guarantee,

and such amount shall be paid out of such assets in preference to any other claims whatsoever against such financial institution, issuer, or guaranteeing institution, except the necessary costs and expenses of administration and the reimbursement of the United States for the amount expended in the redemption of the circulating notes of such financial institution.

(d) PAYMENT BY OTHER MEANS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as the Secretary deems necessary to receive payment by commercially acceptable means, including regulations that—

(A) specify which methods of payment by commercially acceptable means will be acceptable,

(B) specify when payment by such means will be considered received,

(C) identify types of nontax matters related to payment by such means that are to be resolved by persons ultimately liable for payment and financial intermediaries, without the involvement of the Secretary, and

(D) ensure that tax matters will be resolved by the Secretary, without the involvement of financial intermediaries.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding section 3718(f) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts to obtain services related to receiving payment by other means where cost beneficial to the Government. The Secretary may not pay any fee or provide any other consideration under any such contract for the use of credit, debit, or charge cards for the payment of taxes imposed by subtitle A. *The preceding sentence shall not apply to the extent that the Secretary ensures that any such fee or other consideration is fully recouped by the Secretary in the form of fees paid to the Secretary by persons paying taxes imposed under subtitle A with credit, debit, or charge cards pursuant to such contract. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall seek to minimize the amount of any fee or other consideration that the Secretary pays under any such contract.*

(3) SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR USE OF CREDIT CARDS.—If use of credit cards is accepted as a method of payment of taxes pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) a payment of internal revenue taxes (or a payment for internal revenue stamps) by a person by use of a credit card shall not be subject to section 161 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1666), or to any similar provisions of State law, if the error alleged by the person is an error relating to the underlying tax liability, rather than an error relating to the credit card account such as a computational error or numerical transposition in the credit card transaction or an issue as to whether the person authorized payment by use of the credit card,

(B) a payment of internal revenue taxes (or a payment for internal revenue stamps) shall not be subject to section 170 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1666i), or to any similar provisions of State law,

(C) a payment of internal revenue taxes (or a payment for internal revenue stamps) by a person by use of a debit card shall not be subject to section 908 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693f), or to any similar provisions of State law, if the error alleged by the person is an error relating to the underlying tax liability, rather than an error relating to the debit card account such as a computational error or numerical transposition in the debit card transaction or an issue as to whether the person authorized payment by use of the debit card,

(D) the term “creditor” under section 103(f) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602(f)) shall not include the Secretary with respect to credit card transactions in payment of internal revenue taxes (or payment for internal revenue stamps), and

(E) notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in the case of payment made by credit card or debit card transaction of an amount owed to a person as the result of the correction of an error under section 161 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1666) or section 908 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693f), the Secretary is authorized to provide such amount to such person as a credit to that person’s credit card or debit card account through the applicable credit card or debit card system.

(e) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise authorized by this subsection, no person may use or disclose any information relating to credit or debit card transactions obtained pursuant to section 6103(k)(9) other than for purposes directly related to the processing of such transactions, or the billing or collection of amounts charged or debited pursuant thereto.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) Debit or credit card issuers or others acting on behalf of such issuers may also use and disclose such information for purposes directly related to servicing an issuer’s accounts.

(B) Debit or credit card issuers or others directly involved in the processing of credit or debit card transactions or the billing or collection of amounts charged or debited

thereto may also use and disclose such information for purposes directly related to—

- (i) statistical risk and profitability assessment;
- (ii) transferring receivables, accounts, or interest therein;
- (iii) auditing the account information;
- (iv) complying with Federal, State, or local law; and
- (v) properly authorized civil, criminal, or regulatory investigation by Federal, State, or local authorities.

(3) PROCEDURES.—Use and disclosure of information under this paragraph shall be made only to the extent authorized by written procedures promulgated by the Secretary.

(4) CROSS REFERENCE.—For provision providing for civil damages for violation of paragraph (1), see section 7431.

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CHAPTER 75—CRIMES, OTHER OFFENSES, AND FORFEITURES

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Subchapter A—Crimes

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PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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SEC. 7213. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

(a) RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION.—

(1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PERSONS.—It shall be unlawful for any officer or employee of the United States or any person described in section 6103(n) (or an officer or employee of any such person), or any former officer or employee, willfully to disclose to any person, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)). Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable upon conviction by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, and if such offense is committed by any officer or employee of the United States, he shall, in addition to any other punishment, be dismissed from office or discharged from employment upon conviction for such offense.

(2) STATE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES.—It shall be unlawful for any person (not described in paragraph (1)) willfully to disclose to any person, except as authorized in this title, any return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) acquired by him or another person under subsection (d), (i)(1)(C), (3)(B)(i), or (7)(A)(ii), (k)(10) or (13), (l)(6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (12), (15), (16), (19), (20), or (21) or (m)(2), (4), (5), (6), or (7) of section 6103 or under section 6104(c). Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not ex-

ceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(3) OTHER PERSONS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to whom any return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) is disclosed in a manner unauthorized by this title thereafter willfully to print or publish in any manner not provided by law any such return or return information. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(4) SOLICITATION.—It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to offer any item of material value in exchange for any return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) and to receive as a result of such solicitation any such return or return information. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(5) SHAREHOLDERS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to whom a return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) is disclosed pursuant to the provisions of section 6103(e)(1)(D)(iii) willfully to disclose such return or return information in any manner not provided by law. Any violation of this paragraph shall be a felony punishable by a fine in any amount not to exceed \$5,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF OPERATIONS OF MANUFACTURER OR PRODUCER.—Any officer or employee of the United States who divulges or makes known in any manner whatever not provided by law to any person the operations, style of work, or apparatus of any manufacturer or producer visited by him in the discharge of his official duties shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution; and the offender shall be dismissed from office or discharged from employment.

(c) DISCLOSURES BY CERTAIN DELEGATES OF SECRETARY.—All provisions of law relating to the disclosure of information, and all provisions of law relating to penalties for unauthorized disclosure of information, which are applicable in respect of any function under this title when performed by an officer or employee of the Treasury Department are likewise applicable in respect of such function when performed by any person who is a “delegate” within the meaning of section 7701(a)(12)(B).

(d) DISCLOSURE OF SOFTWARE.—Any person who willfully divulges or makes known software (as defined in section 7612(d)(1)) to any person in violation of section 7612 shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

(e) CROSS REFERENCES.—

(1) PENALTIES FOR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY PREPARERS OF RETURNS.—For penalty for disclosure or use of information by preparers of returns, see section 7216.

(2) PENALTIES FOR DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR PENALTIES FOR DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY.—any officer or employee of the United States or any department or agency thereof, see 18 U.S.C. 1905.

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CHAPTER 80—GENERAL RULES

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Subchapter A—Application of Internal Revenue Laws

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SEC. 7803. COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE; OTHER OFFICIALS.

(a) COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department of the Treasury a Commissioner of Internal Revenue who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Such appointment shall be made from individuals who, among other qualifications, have a demonstrated ability in management.

(B) TERM.—The term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall be a 5-year term, beginning with a term to commence on November 13, 1997. Each subsequent term shall begin on the day after the date on which the previous term expires.

(C) VACANCY.—Any individual appointed as Commissioner of Internal Revenue during a term as defined in subparagraph (B) shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(D) REMOVAL.—The Commissioner may be removed at the will of the President.

(E) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Commissioner may be appointed to serve more than one term.

(2) DUTIES.—The Commissioner shall have such duties and powers as the Secretary may prescribe, including the power to—

(A) administer, manage, conduct, direct, and supervise the execution and application of the internal revenue laws or related statutes and tax conventions to which the United States is a party; and

(B) recommend to the President a candidate for appointment as Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service when a vacancy occurs, and recommend to the President the removal of such Chief Counsel.

If the Secretary determines not to delegate a power specified in subparagraph (A) or (B), such determination may not take effect until 30 days after the Secretary notifies the Committees on Ways and Means, Government Reform and Oversight, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Com-

mittees on Finance, Governmental Affairs, and Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) EXECUTION OF DUTIES IN ACCORD WITH TAXPAYER RIGHTS.—In discharging his duties, the Commissioner shall ensure that employees of the Internal Revenue Service are familiar with and act in accord with taxpayer rights as afforded by other provisions of this title, including—

- (A) the right to be informed,
- (B) the right to quality service,
- (C) the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax,
- (D) the right to challenge the position of the Internal Revenue Service and be heard,
- (E) the right to appeal a decision of the Internal Revenue Service in an independent forum,
- (F) the right to finality,
- (G) the right to privacy,
- (H) the right to confidentiality,
- (I) the right to retain representation, and
- (J) the right to a fair and just tax system.

(4) CONSULTATION WITH BOARD.—The Commissioner shall consult with the Oversight Board on all matters set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3) (other than paragraph (3)(A)) of section 7802(d).

(b) CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—There shall be in the Department of the Treasury a Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate.

(2) DUTIES.—The Chief Counsel shall be the chief law officer for the Internal Revenue Service and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Secretary, including the duty—

- (A) to be legal advisor to the Commissioner and the Commissioner's officers and employees;
- (B) to furnish legal opinions for the preparation and review of rulings and memoranda of technical advice;
- (C) to prepare, review, and assist in the preparation of proposed legislation, treaties, regulations, and Executive orders relating to laws which affect the Internal Revenue Service;
- (D) to represent the Commissioner in cases before the Tax Court; and
- (E) to determine which civil actions should be litigated under the laws relating to the Internal Revenue Service and prepare recommendations for the Department of Justice regarding the commencement of such actions.

If the Secretary determines not to delegate a power specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E), such determination may not take effect until 30 days after the Secretary notifies the Committees on Ways and Means, Government Reform and Oversight, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Finance, Governmental Affairs, and Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) PERSONS TO WHOM CHIEF COUNSEL REPORTS.—The Chief Counsel shall report directly to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, except that—

(A) the Chief Counsel shall report to both the Commissioner and the General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury with respect to—

(i) legal advice or interpretation of the tax law not relating solely to tax policy;

(ii) tax litigation; and (B) the Chief Counsel shall report to the General Counsel with respect to legal advice or interpretation of the tax law relating solely to tax policy.

If there is any disagreement between the Commissioner and the General Counsel with respect to any matter jointly referred to them under subparagraph (A), such matter shall be submitted to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary for resolution.

(4) CHIEF COUNSEL PERSONNEL.—All personnel in the Office of Chief Counsel shall report to the Chief Counsel.

(c) OFFICE OF THE TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Internal Revenue Service an office to be known as the “Office of the Taxpayer Advocate”.

(B) NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate shall be under the supervision and direction of an official to be known as the “National Taxpayer Advocate”. The National Taxpayer Advocate shall report directly to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and shall be entitled to compensation at the same rate as the highest rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, or, if the Secretary of the Treasury so determines, at a rate fixed under section 9503 of such title.

(ii) APPOINTMENT.—The National Taxpayer Advocate shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the Oversight Board and without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appointments in the competitive service or the Senior Executive Service.

(iii) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under clause (ii) shall have—

(I) a background in customer service as well as tax law; and

(II) experience in representing individual taxpayers.

(iv) RESTRICTION ON EMPLOYMENT.—An individual may be appointed as the National Taxpayer Advocate only if such individual was not an officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service during the 2-year period ending with such appointment and such individual agrees not to accept any employment with the Internal Revenue Service for at least 5 years after

ceasing to be the National Taxpayer Advocate. Service as an officer or employee of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate shall not be taken into account in applying this clause.

(2) FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the function of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate to—

(i) assist taxpayers in resolving problems with the Internal Revenue Service;

(ii) identify areas in which taxpayers have problems in dealings with the Internal Revenue Service;

(iii) to the extent possible, propose changes in the administrative practices of the Internal Revenue Service to mitigate problems identified under clause (ii); and

(iv) identify potential legislative changes which may be appropriate to mitigate such problems.

(B) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(i) OBJECTIVES.—Not later than June 30 of each calendar year, the National Taxpayer Advocate shall report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate on the objectives of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate for the fiscal year beginning in such calendar year. Any such report shall contain full and substantive analysis, in addition to statistical information.

(ii) ACTIVITIES.—Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, the National Taxpayer Advocate shall report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate on the activities of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate during the fiscal year ending during such calendar year. Any such report shall contain full and substantive analysis, in addition to statistical information, and shall—

(I) identify the initiatives the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate has taken on improving taxpayer services and Internal Revenue Service responsiveness;

(II) contain recommendations received from individuals with the authority to issue Taxpayer Assistance Orders under section 7811;

(III) contain a summary of at least 20 of the most serious problems encountered by taxpayers, including a description of the nature of such problems;

(IV) contain an inventory of the items described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) for which action has been taken and the result of such action;

(V) contain an inventory of the items described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) for which action remains to be completed and the period during which each item has remained on such inventory;

(VI) contain an inventory of the items described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) for which no action has been taken, the period during which each item has remained on such inventory, the reasons for the inaction, and identify any Internal Revenue Service official who is responsible for such inaction;

(VII) identify any Taxpayer Assistance Order which was not honored by the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner, as specified under section 7811(b);

(VIII) contain recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as may be appropriate to resolve problems encountered by taxpayers;

(IX) identify areas of the tax law that impose significant compliance burdens on taxpayers or the Internal Revenue Service, including specific recommendations for remedying these problems;

(X) identify the 10 most litigated issues for each category of taxpayers, including recommendations for mitigating such disputes; and

(XI) include such other information as the National Taxpayer Advocate may deem advisable.

(iii) REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY.—Each report required under this subparagraph shall be provided directly to the committees described in clause (i) without any prior review or comment from the Commissioner, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Oversight Board, any other officer or employee of the Department of the Treasury, or the Office of Management and Budget.

(iv) COORDINATION WITH REPORT OF TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—To the extent that information required to be reported under clause (ii) is also required to be reported under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (d) by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, the National Taxpayer Advocate shall not contain such information in the report submitted under such clause.

(C) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The National Taxpayer Advocate shall—

(i) monitor the coverage and geographic allocation of local offices of taxpayer advocates;

(ii) develop guidance to be distributed to all Internal Revenue Service officers and employees outlining the criteria for referral of taxpayer inquiries to local offices of taxpayer advocates;

(iii) ensure that the local telephone number for each local office of the taxpayer advocate is published and available to taxpayers served by the office; and

(iv) in conjunction with the Commissioner, develop career paths for local taxpayer advocates choosing to make a career in the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate.

(D) PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The National Taxpayer Advocate shall have the responsibility and authority to—

(I) appoint local taxpayer advocates and make available at least 1 such advocate for each State; and

(II) evaluate and take personnel actions (including dismissal) with respect to any employee of any local office of a taxpayer advocate described in subclause (I).

(ii) CONSULTATION.—The National Taxpayer Advocate may consult with the appropriate supervisory personnel of the Internal Revenue Service in carrying out the National Taxpayer Advocate's responsibilities under this subparagraph.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall establish procedures requiring a formal response to all recommendations submitted to the Commissioner by the National Taxpayer Advocate within 3 months after submission to the Commissioner.

(4) OPERATION OF LOCAL OFFICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local taxpayer advocate—

(i) shall report to the National Taxpayer Advocate or delegate thereof;

(ii) may consult with the appropriate supervisory personnel of the Internal Revenue Service regarding the daily operation of the local office of the taxpayer advocate;

(iii) shall, at the initial meeting with any taxpayer seeking the assistance of a local office of the taxpayer advocate, notify such taxpayer that the taxpayer advocate offices operate independently of any other Internal Revenue Service office and report directly to Congress through the National Taxpayer Advocate; and

(iv) may, at the taxpayer advocate's discretion, not disclose to the Internal Revenue Service contact with, or information provided by, such taxpayer.

(B) MAINTENANCE OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS.—Each local office of the taxpayer advocate shall maintain a separate phone, facsimile, and other electronic communication access, and a separate post office address.

(d) ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTING.—The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration shall include in one of the semiannual reports under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978—

(A) an evaluation of the compliance of the Internal Revenue Service with—

(i) restrictions under section 1204 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 on the use of enforcement statistics to evaluate Internal Revenue Service employees;

(ii) restrictions under section 7521 on directly contacting taxpayers who have indicated that they prefer their representatives be contacted;

(iii) required procedures under section 6320 upon the filing of a notice of a lien;

(iv) required procedures under subchapter D of chapter 64 for seizure of property for collection of taxes, including required procedures under section 6330 regarding levies; and

(v) restrictions under section 3707 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 on designation of taxpayers;

(B) a review and a certification of whether or not the Secretary is complying with the requirements of section 6103(e)(8) to disclose information to an individual filing a joint return on collection activity involving the other individual filing the return;

(C) information regarding extensions of the statute of limitations for assessment and collection of tax under section 6501 and the provision of notice to taxpayers regarding requests for such extension;

(D) an evaluation of the adequacy and security of the technology of the Internal Revenue Service;

(E) any termination or mitigation under section 1203 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998;

(F) information regarding improper denial of requests for information from the Internal Revenue Service identified under paragraph (3)(A); and

(G) information regarding any administrative or civil actions with respect to violations of the fair debt collection provisions of section 6304, including—

(i) a summary of such actions initiated since the date of the last report; and

(ii) a summary of any judgments or awards granted as a result of such actions.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration shall include in each semiannual report under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978—

(i) the number of taxpayer complaints during the reporting period;

(ii) the number of employee misconduct and taxpayer abuse allegations received by the Internal Revenue Service or the Inspector General during the period from taxpayers, Internal Revenue Service employees, and other sources;

(iii) a summary of the status of such complaints and allegations; and

(iv) a summary of the disposition of such complaints and allegations, including the outcome of any Department of Justice action and any monies paid as a settlement of such complaints and allegations.

(B) Clauses (iii) and (iv) of subparagraph (A) shall only apply to complaints and allegations of serious employee misconduct.

(3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration shall—

(A) conduct periodic audits of a statistically valid sample of the total number of determinations made by the Internal Revenue Service to deny written requests to disclose information to taxpayers on the basis of section 6103 of this title or section 552(b)(7) of title 5, United States Code;

(B) establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number for taxpayers to use to confidentially register complaints of misconduct by Internal Revenue Service employees and incorporate the telephone number in the statement required by section 6227 of the Omnibus Taxpayer Bill of Rights (Internal Revenue Service Publication No. 1); and

(C) not later than December 31, 2010, submit a written report to Congress on the implementation of section 6103(k)(10).

(f) *INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Internal Revenue Service an Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the “IRS CIO”) who shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service.*

(2) *CENTRALIZED RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service (and the Secretary) shall act through the IRS CIO with respect to all development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service. Any reference in this subsection to the IRS CIO which directs the IRS CIO to take any action, or to assume any responsibility, shall be treated as a reference to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service acting through the IRS CIO.*

(3) *GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The IRS CIO shall—*

(A) *be responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,*

(B) *ensure that the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service is secure and integrated,*

(C) *maintain operational control of all information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,*

(D) *be the principal advocate for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service, and*

(E) *consult with the Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that the information technology acquired for the Internal Revenue Service is consistent with—*

(i) *the goals and requirements specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D), and*

(ii) *the strategic plan developed under paragraph (4).*

(4) *STRATEGIC PLAN.—*

(A) *IN GENERAL.—The IRS CIO shall develop and implement a multiyear strategic plan for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service. Such plan shall—*

(i) *include performance measurements of such technology and of the implementation of such plan,*

(ii) include a plan for an integrated enterprise architecture of the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service,

(iii) include and take into account the resources needed to accomplish such plan,

(iv) take into account planned major acquisitions of information technology by the Internal Revenue Service, including Customer Account Data Engine 2 and the Enterprise Case Management System, and

(v) align with the needs and strategic plan of the Internal Revenue Service.

(B) PLAN UPDATES.—The IRS CIO shall, not less frequently than annually, review and update the strategic plan under subparagraph (A) (including the plan for an integrated enterprise architecture described in subparagraph (A)(ii)) to take into account the development of new information technology and the needs of the Internal Revenue Service.

(5) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—

(A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “information technology” has the meaning given such term by section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—Any reference in this subsection to the Internal Revenue Service includes a reference to all components of the Internal Revenue Service, including—

(i) the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate,

(ii) the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and

(iii) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary with respect to information technology related to matters described in subsection (b)(3)(B), the Office of the Chief Counsel.

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