

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 978

To reaffirm the authority of the Comptroller General to audit and evaluate the programs, activities, and financial transactions of the intelligence community, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reaffirm the authority of the Comptroller General to audit and evaluate the programs, activities, and financial transactions of the intelligence community, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Commu-
5 nity Audit Act of 2007”.

1 SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL AUDITS AND EVALUA-
2 TIONS OF ACTIVITIES OF ELEMENTS OF THE
3 INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

4 (a) REAFFIRMATION OF AUTHORITY; AUDITS OF IN-
5 TELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.—Chapter 35 of
6 title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
7 section 3523 the following:

10 "(a) In this section, the term 'element of the intel-
11 ligence community' means an element of the intelligence
12 community specified in or designated under section 3(4)
13 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

14 "(b) Congress finds that—

15 “(1) the authority of the Comptroller General
16 to perform audits and evaluations of financial trans-
17 actions, programs, and activities of elements of the
18 intelligence community under sections 712, 717,
19 3523, and 3524, and to obtain access to records for
20 purposes of such audits and evaluations under sec-
21 tion 716, is reaffirmed; and

22 “(2) such audits and evaluations may be re-
23 quested by any committee of jurisdiction (including
24 the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
25 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
26 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate),

1 and may include but are not limited to matters re-
2 lating to the management and administration of ele-
3 ments of the intelligence community in areas such as
4 strategic planning, financial management, informa-
5 tion technology, human capital, knowledge manage-
6 ment, information sharing (including information
7 sharing by and with the Department of Homeland
8 Security), and change management.

9 “(c)(1) The Comptroller General may conduct an
10 audit or evaluation of intelligence sources and methods or
11 covert actions only upon request of the Select Committee
12 on Intelligence of the Senate or the Permanent Select
13 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
14 tives, or the majority or the minority leader of the Senate
15 or the House of Representatives.

16 “(2)(A) Whenever the Comptroller General conducts
17 an audit or evaluation under paragraph (1), the Com-
18 troller General shall provide the results of such audit or
19 evaluation only to the original requestor, the Director of
20 National Intelligence, and the head of the relevant element
21 of the intelligence community.

22 “(B) The Comptroller General may only provide in-
23 formation obtained in the course of an audit or evaluation
24 under paragraph (1) to the original requestor, the Direc-

1 tor of National Intelligence, and the head of the relevant
2 element of the intelligence community.

3 “(3)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
4 the Comptroller General may inspect records of any ele-
5 ment of the intelligence community relating to intelligence
6 sources and methods, or covert actions in order to conduct
7 audits and evaluations under paragraph (1).

8 “(B) If in the conduct of an audit or evaluation under
9 paragraph (1), an agency record is not made available to
10 the Comptroller General in accordance with section 716,
11 the Comptroller General shall consult with the original re-
12 questor before filing a report under subsection (b)(1) of
13 that section.

14 “(4)(A) The Comptroller General shall maintain the
15 same level of confidentiality for a record made available
16 for conducting an audit under paragraph (1) as is required
17 of the head of the element of the intelligence community
18 from which it is obtained. Officers and employees of the
19 Government Accountability Office are subject to the same
20 statutory penalties for unauthorized disclosure or use as
21 officers or employees of the intelligence community ele-
22 ment that provided the Comptroller General or officers
23 and employees of the Government Accountability Office
24 with access to such records.

1 “(B) All workpapers of the Comptroller General and
2 all records and property of any element of the intelligence
3 community that the Comptroller General uses during an
4 audit or evaluation under paragraph (1) shall remain in
5 facilities provided by that element of the intelligence com-
6 munity. Elements of the intelligence community shall give
7 the Comptroller General suitable and secure offices and
8 furniture, telephones, and access to copying facilities, for
9 purposes of audits and evaluations under paragraph (1).

10 “(C) After consultation with the Select Committee on
11 Intelligence of the Senate and with the Permanent Select
12 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
13 tives, the Comptroller General shall establish procedures
14 to protect from unauthorized disclosure all classified and
15 other sensitive information furnished to the Comptroller
16 General or any representative of the Comptroller General
17 for conducting an audit or evaluation under paragraph
18 (1).

19 “(D) Before initiating an audit or evaluation under
20 paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall provide the
21 Director of National Intelligence and the head of the rel-
22 evant element with the name of each officer and employee
23 of the Government Accountability Office who has obtained
24 appropriate security clearance and to whom, upon proper
25 identification, records, and information of the element of

1 the intelligence community shall be made available in con-
2 ducting the audit or evaluation.

3 “(d) Elements of the intelligence community shall co-
4 operate fully with the Comptroller General and provide
5 timely responses to Comptroller General requests for docu-
6 mentation and information.

7 “(e) Nothing in this section or any other provision
8 of law shall be construed as restricting or limiting the au-
9 thority of the Comptroller General to audit and evaluate,
10 or obtain access to the records of, elements of the intel-
11 ligence community absent specific statutory language re-
12 stricting or limiting such audits, evaluations, or access to
13 records.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 for chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code, is amended
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 3523 the
17 following:

“3523a. Audits of intelligence community; audits and requesters.”.

