

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2646

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20, 2010

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 31, United States Code, to enhance the oversight authorities of the Comptroller General, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Government Account-
3 ability Office Improvement Act of 2010”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.**—Section 716
6 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection
7 (a)—

8 (1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(2)”; and

9 (2) by inserting after the section heading the
10 following:

11 “(a)(1) The Comptroller General is authorized to ob-
12 tain such agency records as the Comptroller General re-
13 quires to discharge his duties (including audit, evaluation,
14 and investigative duties), including through the bringing
15 of civil actions under this section. In reviewing a civil ac-
16 tion under this section, the court shall recognize the con-
17 tinuing force and effect of the authorization in the pre-
18 ceding sentence until such time as the authorization is re-
19 pealed pursuant to law.”.

20 (b) **COPIES AND INTERVIEWS.**—Section 716(a) of
21 title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection
22 (a), is further amended in the second sentence of para-
23 graph (2) by striking “inspect an agency record” and in-
24 serting “inspect, and make and retain copies of, an agency
25 record and interview agency officers and employees”.

1 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 716 of title
2 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
3 the following new subsection:

4 “(f) No provision of any law in existence on the date
5 of the enactment of this section or enacted after such date
6 shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the au-
7 thority of the Comptroller General to obtain any informa-
8 tion, to inspect any record, or to interview any officer or
9 employee under this section, except to the extent such pro-
10 vision expressly and specifically refers to this section and
11 provides for such limitation, amendment, or supersed-
12 sion.”.

13 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTERING OATHS.**

14 Paragraph (4) of section 711 of title 31, United
15 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 “(4) administer oaths to witnesses, except that,
17 in matters other than auditing and settling accounts,
18 the authority of an officer or employee to administer
19 oaths to witnesses pursuant to a delegation under
20 paragraph (2) shall not be available without the
21 prior express approval of the Comptroller General
22 (or a designee).”.

23 **SEC. 4. AGENCY REPORTS.**

24 Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is
25 amended—

3 (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
4 lows:

“(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Operations of the House of Representatives, the congressional committees with jurisdiction over the agency program or activity that is the subject of the recommendation, and the Government Accountability Office before the 61st day after the date of the report; and”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 13,
2010.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.