

technical corrections to further enhance the operation of the Impact Aid Program and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a colloquy with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FAWELL].

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FAWELL].

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I regret that I have not had the opportunity to take a good long look at the details at least, or the ramifications of the amendment that was affixed to this bill in the Senate.

I represent several school districts in my district back in Illinois which receive section 8002 funds, and I am very concerned that an amendment, or the amendment that was affixed to this bill in the Senate would essentially provide that a large portion of new funding, I guess we cannot ascertain just how much, for this program would go to one particular school district in 1997, and, more importantly, every fiscal year thereafter.

That does concern me, because, of course, there are a lot of districts throughout this country who are not getting full funding as it is right now, and if all future increases in appropriations were to be subject to this amendment, I think I would have to object.

I would request, therefore, of the chairman, and perhaps the ranking member might want to have something to say about this, that we revisit this issue at a later date, with the understanding that an adjustment would be made so that the changes in the distribution formula are not in effect for every increase in appropriations for future fiscal years, but would be basically in effect only for the fiscal year that we are dealing with, fiscal year 1997, and not for future fiscal years. That is the deep concern I have.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman is correct. There will be other changes in the future. This is one. That particular school district was West Point, which is one of our academies that was impacted due to a special significance. It was not my district or any particular district, but it was a military academy that was being affected.

But I agree. To be fair, we need to make sure that one district does not get all of the dollars, and that it is equalized. We will revisit this in the next Congress.

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. So there would be an assumption that we would limit the benefits of this bill, insofar as that one particular district is concerned, to the increase in appropriations for this fiscal year, and not for future fiscal years.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, in a colloquy just heard between the gentleman from California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. FAWELL, a request on the part of Mr. FAWELL was that we revisit the issue of impact aid in the future Congresses. I would remind all Members that we revisit the issue of impact aid in every Congress, and I am glad we are revisiting it in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I compliment the gentleman from California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the chairman of the full committee, Mr. GOODLING, for the job they have done in recognizing there are and were and probably will be some inequities in this very complicated formula.

Mr. Speaker, what makes it complicated is that in each State, because each State and locality has a different method of funding their schools, from time to time the Federal formula does not work as we would intend it to. Therefore, from time to time we need to make changes and modifications and adjustments to the formula.

In one case in particular, for example, in New Jersey, it happens to be in my district, North Hanover Township, there is the school that provides the educational facilities and programs for the boys and girls who are dependents of the Air Force families at McGuire Air Force Base. North Hanover Township has 85 percent of its student body which comes from military dependents from McGuire Air Force Base. In this case, in 1994 the North Hanover school district lost or did not receive almost \$2 million which was intended to support those military dependent children. So this bill makes that correction and restores those funds for this school and benefits a large number of military dependent children.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very fine effort on the part of this Congress and in particular on the part of the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], and I urge support for this bill.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, all I would say is some of the things we work with in Congress are on a bipartisan basis, and this is one of them. Quite often when you are taking a look at the amount of dollars available from the Federal Government to go to specific programs, then we can reach a consensus on both sides of the aisle.

I would like to thank the new gentleman to the committee, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr.

BLUMENAUER], for his partnership, as well as the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK], who has worked diligently on this particular bill, and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY], and a host of others.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3269.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate amendment to H.R. 3269.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE ACT OF 1996

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3864) to reform the management practices of the General Accounting Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3864

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "General Accounting Office Act of 1996".

#### TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO LAWS AUTHORIZING AUDITING, REPORTING, AND OTHER FUNCTIONS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

##### SEC. 101. TRANSFERS AND TERMINATIONS OF FUNCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.—In any case in which a provision of law authorizing the performance of a function by the Comptroller General of the United States or the General Accounting Office is amended by this title to substitute another Federal officer, employee, or agency in that authorization, the authority under that provision to perform that function is transferred to the other Federal officer, employee, or agency.

(2) FUNCTIONS TERMINATED.—In any case in which a provision of law authorizing the performance of a function by the Comptroller General of the United States or the General Accounting Office is repealed by this Act, the authority under that provision to perform that function is terminated.

(3) DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may delegate, in whole or in part, to any other agency or agencies any function transferred to or vested in the Director under section 103(d), 105(b), 116, or 202(n) of this Act,

and may transfer to such agency or agencies any personnel, budget authority, records, and property received by the Director pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that relate to the delegated functions.

(b) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Incident to any transfer of authority under subsection (a)(1), there shall be transferred to the recipient Federal officer, employee, or agency such personnel, records, budget authority, and property of the General Accounting Office as the Comptroller General and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget jointly determine to be necessary to effectuate the transfer.

(2) EFFECT ON PERSONNEL.—Personnel transferred under this section shall not be separated or reduced in classification or compensation for one year after any such transfer, except for cause.

(c) REFERENCES.—With respect to any function or authority transferred under this Act and exercised on or after the effective date of that transfer, reference in any Federal law to the Comptroller General or to any officer or employee of the General Accounting Office is deemed to refer to the Federal officer or agency to which the function or authority is transferred under this Act.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) ORDERS AND OTHER OFFICIAL ACTIONS NOT AFFECTED.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

(A) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the Comptroller General or any official of the General Accounting Office, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of any function or authority transferred under this Act, and

(B) which are in effect at the time of the transfer;

shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law.

(2) PENDING MATTERS AND PROCEEDINGS.—This Act shall not affect any pending matters or proceedings, including notices of proposed rulemaking, relating to a function or authority transferred under this Act. Such matters or proceedings shall continue under the authority of the agency to which the function or authority is transferred until completed or terminated in accordance with law.

(3) JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND CAUSES OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action, or other proceeding or cause of action relating to a function or authority transferred under this Act shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act. If, before the date on which a transfer of a function or authority this Act takes effect, the Comptroller General of the United States or any officer or employee of the General Accounting Office in their official capacity is party to a suit relating to the function or authority, then such suit shall be continued and the head of the agency to which the function or authority is transferred, or other appropriate official of that agency, shall be substituted or added as a party.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Sections 103(d), 105(b), and 116 shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 102. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE (THE CONGRESS).**

(a) COMPLIANCE REPORTING ON REDUCTION IN EMPLOYEE POSITIONS.—Section 307(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1994

(Public Law 103-69; 107 Stat. 710; 2 U.S.C. 60-1 note) is amended by striking "shall" and inserting "may".

(b) WAIVER OF ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS IN THE SENATE.—Section 2(a) of the Act of July 25, 1974 (Public Law 93-359; 88 Stat. 394; 2 U.S.C. 130c(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence by striking "if the claim is not the subject of an exception made by the Comptroller General in the account of any accountable officer or official"; and

(2) in the third sentence by striking "shall" the first place it appears and inserting "may".

(c) WAIVER OF ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Section 3(a) of the Act of July 25, 1974 (Public Law 93-359; 88 Stat. 395; 2 U.S.C. 130d(a)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking "if the claim is not the subject of an exception made by the Comptroller General in the account of any accountable officer or official".

(d) REPORT ON SEQUESTRATION OF FUNDS TO MEET DEFICIT REDUCTION GOALS.—Section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking:  
 "30 days later GAO compliance report";

and

(2) in subsection (i), by striking "On the date specified in subsection (a)" and inserting "Upon request of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate".

**SEC. 103. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE (GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYEES).**

(a) TRANSMITTAL OF REPORTS.—Section 1213(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking the comma after "President" and inserting "and", and by striking "and the Comptroller General"; and

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the comma after "President" and inserting "and", and by striking "and the Comptroller General".

(b) WITHHOLDING OF PAY.—Section 5512(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "General Accounting Office" and inserting "employing agency".

(c) DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY.—Section 5582(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "An employee may change or revoke a designation at any time under regulations promulgated—

"(1) by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management or his designee, in the case of an employee of an executive agency;

"(2) jointly by the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designee, in the case of an employee of the legislative branch; and

"(3) by the Chief Justice of the United States or his or her designee, in the case of an employee of the judicial branch."

(d) WAIVER OF ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS.—Section 5584 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "Comptroller General of the United States" and inserting "authorized official"; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by inserting "and" at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking subparagraph (B), by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B), and by striking "Comptroller General" in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated) and inserting "authorized official";

(2) in subsection (b) by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "authorized official"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) For the purpose of this section, the term 'authorized official' means—

"(1) the head of an agency, with respect to an agency or employee in the legislative branch; or

"(2) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with respect to any other agency or employee."

(e) REGULATIONS AND REPORTS.—Section 5707(b)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "the Comptroller General of the United States,".

(f) GAO AUDIT OF AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—Section 5(b) of the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-391; 5 U.S.C. 5707 note) is repealed.

(g) PROCEDURES FOR DEPOSIT OF EMPLOYEES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO RETIREMENT FUNDS.—Sections 8334(a)(2), 8422(c), and 8432(f) of title 5, United States Code, are each amended by striking "Comptroller General of the United States" and inserting "Secretary of the Treasury".

(h) TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF REPORT ON THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND.—Section 8348(l) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the last sentence in paragraph (1).

(i) TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF REPORT ON THE THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—Section 8438(h) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General of the United States" in the last sentence of paragraph (1).

(j) RECEIPT OF COPY OF CPA EXAMINATION OF THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—Section 8439(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General of the United States".

**SEC. 104. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 7, UNITED STATES CODE (AGRICULTURE).**

(a) AUDIT OF WASHINGTON FAMILY INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Section 21(g) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2030(g)) is amended by striking "shall" and inserting "may".

(b) REPORTS ON AMOUNTS OBLIGATED AND EXPENDED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ADVISORY SERVICES.—Section 641 of the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2207a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(1)" after "(a)";

(B) by striking "shall (A) submit" and inserting "shall submit"; and

(C) by striking "and (B) transmit a copy of such report to the Comptroller General of the United States";

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as subsection (b); and

(4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subsection (a)"; and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively.

**SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE (ARMED FORCES).**

(a) WAIVER OF RECOVERY OF ERRONEOUS ANNUITY PAYMENTS.—Sections 1442 and 1453 of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking "and the Comptroller General".

(b) WAIVER OF RECOVERY OF ERRONEOUS OVERPAYMENTS.—Section 2774 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Director of the Office of Management and Budget"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "and" at the end of subparagraph (A), striking subparagraph (B), redesignating subparagraph

(C) as subparagraph (B), and in that subparagraph (as so redesignated), striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Director of the Office of Management and Budget"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "The Comptroller General" and inserting "The Director of the Office of Management and Budget".

(c) CERTIFICATION TO COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF UNCOLLECTABILITY OF ADVANCES.—Section 2777(b)(2)(B) of such title is amended by striking "to the Comptroller General".

(d) MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—Section 2778 of such title is repealed, and the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 165 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to that section.

(e) RADIOGRAMS AND TELEGRAMS.—Sections 4592 and 9592 of such title are amended by striking ", or may file a claim with the General Accounting Office for" in the second sentence and inserting "of".

**SEC. 106. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 12, UNITED STATES CODE (BANKS AND BANKING).**

(a) REPORT ON PREPURCHASE AND FORECLOSURE-PREVENTION COUNSELING DEMONSTRATION.—Section 106(d) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (9);

(2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking "(10)(K)" and inserting "(9)";

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking "(for purposes of the study and report under paragraph (9))"; and

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively.

(b) ANNUAL GAO COMPLIANCE AUDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 141(a)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 1823 note) is amended by striking "shall annually audit" and inserting "shall audit, under such conditions as the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for paragraph (2) of section 141(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 1823 note) is amended by striking "ANNUAL GAO" and inserting "GAO".

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT ON FDIC COMPLIANCE WITH LIMITS ON OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS.—Section 102 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 1825 note) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(d) PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTION: GAO REVIEW.—Section 38(k)(5) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831o(k)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) GAO REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, under such conditions as the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate, review reports made under paragraph (1) and recommend improvements in the supervision of insured depository institutions (including the implementation of this section)."

(e) GAO REPORTS ON RISK-BASED INSURANCE PREMIUMS, ACCESS TO ASSOCIATION CAPITAL, AND SUPPLEMENTAL PREMIUMS.—Section 204(a) of the Farm Credit Banks and Associations Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-552; 106 Stat. 4106; 12 U.S.C. 2277a-4 note) is amended by striking "shall" and inserting "may".

(f) REVIEW OF FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION GUARANTEE FEES.—Section 8.10(b)(4) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa-10(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "ANNUAL REVIEW" and inserting "REVIEW"; and

(2) by striking "shall annually" and inserting "may".

(g) GAO STUDIES OF APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1112(c) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3341) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "At the end of the 18-month period" and all that follows through "study" and inserting "The Comptroller General of the United States may conduct, under such conditions as the Comptroller General determines appropriate, studies"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "required under" and inserting "referred to in".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for section 1112(c)(1) of Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3341(c)(1)) is amended by striking "STUDY REQUIRED" and inserting "GAO STUDIES".

(h) AUDIT OF OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT.—Section 1319E of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4524) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "shall" and inserting "may"; and

(B) by inserting ", and any such audit shall be conducted" after "Office"; and

(2) by striking the last sentence.

(i) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—Section 11(t) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(t)) is amended by adding at the end of paragraph (2)(A) the following new clause:

"(vi) The General Accounting Office.".

**SEC. 107. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE (COMMERCE AND TRADE).**

Section 31(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(b)(1)(B)) is amended by striking clause (iii).

**SEC. 108. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 16, UNITED STATES CODE (CONSERVATION).**

(a) LICENSES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.—Section 6 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 799) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) AUDIT OF THE BROWNSVILLE WETLANDS POLICY CENTER.—Section 202(d)(4) of the Brownsville Wetlands Policy Act of 1994 (108 Stat. 338) is repealed.

(c) AUDIT OF CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COST ALLOCATION.—Section 211 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) is amended—

(1) by striking "Comptroller General of the United States" and inserting "Inspector General of the Department of the Interior"; and

(2) by striking "in accordance with regulations which the Comptroller General shall prescribe".

(d) REPORT ON GLEN CANYON COSTS AND BENEFITS.—Section 1804 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respectively.

**SEC. 109. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE (CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE).**

(a) PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTION ASSISTANCE: DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 5(b) of the Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-524; 90 Stat. 2476; 18 U.S.C. 3056 note) is amended by striking "Comptroller General of the United States" and inserting "Director".

(b) DISPUTES OVER PURCHASE OF PRISON-MADE PRODUCTS BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.—Section 4124(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "Comp-

troller General of the United States" and inserting "Attorney General".

**SEC. 110. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 19, UNITED STATES CODE (CUSTOMS DUTIES).**

(a) AUDITS OF THE CUSTOMS FORFEITURE FUND.—Section 613A(e)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1613b(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "annual financial"; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: ", under such conditions as the Comptroller General determines appropriate".

(b) REPORT ON BUSINESSES ESTABLISHED BY CUSTOMS SERVICE FOR UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS.—Section 3131(b) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 (19 U.S.C. 2081(b)) is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General".

**SEC. 111. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 22, UNITED STATES CODE (FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERCOURSE).**

(a) ACCOUNTS OF ADVANCES FOR OPERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON THE U.S.-CANADA BOUNDARY WATERS.—The first section of the Act of March 2, 1921 (chapter 113; 22 U.S.C. 268b) is amended by striking "chiefs of parties" the first place it appears and all that follows through "chiefs of parties" the next place it appears and inserting "chiefs of parties".

(b) PREPARATION OF SCOPE OF AUDIT AND REVIEW OF AUDITS OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 14 of the Inter-American Development Bank Act (22 U.S.C. 283j-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking "Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare for the Secretary of the Treasury" and inserting "Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare"; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the second sentence, by striking "shall periodically" and inserting "may".

(c) REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—Section 4 of the Foreign Direct Investment and International Financial Data Improvements Act of 1990 (22 U.S.C. 3143) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "report required under" and inserting "reports referred to in"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "(b)" and all that follows through "shall submit" and inserting "(b) REPORTS.—Consistent with the provisions of this section, the Comptroller General may submit";

(B) by striking "Congress, a report" and inserting "Congress reports";

(C) in paragraph (1) by striking "the report of the Secretary of Commerce" and inserting "reports issued by the Secretary of Commerce under section 3"; and

(D) by striking the last sentence of the subsection.

**SEC. 112. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 25, UNITED STATES CODE (INDIANS).**

(a) COPIES OF INDIAN SERVICE CONTRACTS.—Section 7 of the Act of March 3, 1875 (25 U.S.C. 96), is repealed.

(b) COPIES OF INDIAN SERVICE CONTRACT BIDS.—Section 3 of the Act of August 15, 1876 (25 U.S.C. 97), is amended by striking "; and an abstract of all bids or proposals received for the supplies or services embraced in any contract shall be attached to, and filed with, the said contract when the same is filed in the office of the Second Comptroller of the Treasury" and inserting in lieu thereof a period.

**SEC. 113. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 26, UNITED STATES CODE (INTERNAL REVENUE CODE).**

Section 7608(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 7608(c)(2)), is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General of the United States".

**SEC. 114. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE (JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE).**

Section 2410(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking, in the second sentence, "shall so report to the Comptroller General who".

**SEC. 115. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE (MONEY AND FINANCE).**

(a) TREATMENT OF RECORDS CONTAINING BANKING AGENCY INFORMATION.—Section 714(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the last sentence of paragraph (1) and by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) The Comptroller General shall prevent unauthorized access to records or property of or used by an agency that the Comptroller General obtains during an audit."

(b) REPORT ON AUDITS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION.—Section 719 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and  
(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

(c) COMPLIANCE REPORTING ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 308(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1994 (Public Law 103-69; 107 Stat. 710; 31 U.S.C. 1105 note) is amended by striking "shall" and inserting "may".

(d) PAYING CHECKS AND DRAFTS.—Section 3328 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "until the Comptroller General settles the question" and inserting "until the question is settled";

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "on settlement by the Comptroller General"; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "With the approval of the Comptroller General, the" and inserting "The".

(e) WITHHOLDING CHECKS TO BE SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Section 3329(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the last two sentences and inserting "The Secretary shall credit the accounts of the drawer and drawee."

(f) PROPERTY RETURNS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 3531 of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3531.

(g) CLAIMS COLLECTION AND COMPROMISE.—  
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", except that only the Comptroller General may compromise a claim arising out of an exception the Comptroller General makes in the account of an accountable official";

(B) by striking subsection (b);

(C) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) and the first subsection (g) in order as subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), by striking "and the Comptroller General" and by striking "jointly" from paragraph (2).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 3701(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "3711(f)" and inserting "3711(e)".

(B) Section 552a of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "3711(f)" each place it appears and inserting "3711(e)".

(C) Section 2780(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "3711(f)" and inserting "3711(e)".

(D) Section 4(d)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (Chapter 841; 22 U.S.C. 2671(d)(6)) is amended by striking "3711(f)" and inserting "3711(e)".

(E) Section 204(f)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(f)(1)) is amended by striking "3711(f)" and inserting "3711(e)".

(h) AUDIT OF PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS.—Section 303 of Public Law 103-186 (31 U.S.C. 5112 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "Before the end of the 1-year period" and all that follows through "the Comptroller General of the United States shall" and inserting "The Comptroller General of the United States may"; and

(2) by striking "sale of such coins" and inserting "sale of commemorative coins".

(i) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING.—Section 6 of the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990 (31 U.S.C. 6503 note) is repealed.

(j) CONSULTATION ON ACCOUNTING, AUDIT AND FISCAL PROCEDURES.—Section 6703(d)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "after consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States".

(k) REVIEWS OF LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM.—Section 6718(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "shall" each place it appears and inserting "may".

**SEC. 116. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 32, UNITED STATES CODE (NATIONAL GUARD).**

Section 716 of title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Director of the Office of Management and Budget"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "and" at the end of subparagraph (A), striking subparagraph (B), redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B), and in that subparagraph (as so redesignated), striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Director of the Office of Management and Budget"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "The Comptroller General" and inserting "The Director of the Office of Management and Budget".

**SEC. 117. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 33, UNITED STATES CODE (NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS).**

Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4831-4832; 33 U.S.C. 2281 note) is repealed.

**SEC. 118. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE (PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES).**

Section 902(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking "the General Accounting Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, may" and inserting "the Secretary of the Navy may".

**SEC. 119. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE (VETERANS' BENEFITS).**

Section 711(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", upon request of either of such Committees," in the first sentence after "the Comptroller General shall".

**SEC. 120. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 40, UNITED STATES CODE (PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS).**

(a) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF SALES FROM PROCEEDS.—Section 1 of the Act of June 8, 1896 (29 Stat. 268; 40 U.S.C. 485a) is amended by striking ", as approved by the accounting officers of the Treasury."

(b) FURNISHING DETERMINATIONS TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—Section 210(a)(8) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 490(a)(8)) is amended by striking ". A copy of every such determination so made shall be furnished to the General Accounting Office".

**SEC. 121. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 41, UNITED STATES CODE (PUBLIC CONTRACTS).**

(a) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF FRAUDULENT WAR CONTRACT SETTLEMENTS.—

Section 16 of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 (41 U.S.C. 116) is repealed.

(b) RECORDS OF WAR CONTRACT FINANCING AND TERMINATIONS.—Section 18(a) of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 (41 U.S.C. 118(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(1)"; and

(2) by striking "; and (2) the records in connection therewith to be transmitted to the General Accounting Office".

(c) COPIES OF CONTRACTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS.—Section 307(b) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 257(b)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

**SEC. 122. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 42, UNITED STATES CODE (PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE).**

(a) CONSULTATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—Section 408(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284c(a)(3)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) AUDIT OF NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.—Section 499(n) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b(n)) is repealed.

(c) CONSULTATION AND REPORTS ON GRANTS FOR TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS.—Section 528 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290cc-28) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "the Comptroller General of the United States, and"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "Comptroller General of the United States in cooperation with the" and by striking the comma after "Administration".

(d) CONSULTATION AND REPORT ON TRAUMA CARE GRANTS.—Section 1216(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-16(a)) is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General of the United States".

(e) CONSULTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANTS.—Section 1942(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-52(a)) is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General".

(f) STATE REPORTS ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS.—Section 506(a)(1) of the Act of August 14, 1935, ch. 531 (42 U.S.C. 706(a)(1)) is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General".

(g) REVIEW HHS CALCULATION OF REIMBURSEMENT RATE.—Section 4204(b) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 1395mm note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4);

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking "Taking into account the recommendations made pursuant to paragraph (4), on" and inserting "On"; and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(h) STUDY OF OWNERSHIP OF PROVIDERS OF MEDICARE SERVICES BY REFERRING PHYSICIANS.—

(1) Section 6204(e) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 1395nn note) is repealed.

(2) Section 6204(f) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 1395nn note) is amended by striking "and the Comptroller General".

(i) REPORTS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING.—Section 4401(d) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by—

(A) striking "By not later than May 1 of each year, the" and inserting "The";

(B) striking "an annual" and inserting "a"; and

(C) striking "retail and"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (6).

(j) STUDY OF DEMONSTRATION TO ATTRACT PENSION FUND INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—Section 6 of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) is amended by—

(1) striking subsection (i); and  
(2) redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i).

(k) AUDIT OF HUD LOW-INCOME HOUSING ACCOUNTS.—Section 10(a)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437h) is amended by—

(1) striking “annually”;  
(2) striking, after “accounts which”, “shall”, and inserting “may”;

(3) striking “in accordance with the principles and procedures applicable to commercial transactions”; and

(4) striking “, and no other audit shall be required”.

(l) REPORT ON THE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.—Section 23(m) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—  
(A) by striking “shall”, and inserting “may”; and

(B) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—”; and  
(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(m) METHODOLOGY OF STUDY.—Section 211(B)(2) of Public Law 101-515, as amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, is amended by striking “shall serve” and all that follows through “approve” and inserting “may serve in an advisory capacity, may oversee the methodology, and may approve”.

(n) STUDIES OF INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR LOCAL DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section 5(b) of the Act of November 4, 1992 (42 U.S.C. 5781 note, Public Law 102-586), is amended to read as follows:

“(b) GAO STUDIES AND REPORTS.—Under such conditions as the Comptroller General of the United States determines appropriate, the General Accounting Office may conduct studies and report to Congress on the effects of the program established by subsection (a) in encouraging States and units of general local government to comply with the requirements of part B of title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5631-5633).”

(o) AUDITS OF RECIPIENTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES.—Section 19(x)(1) of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5919(x)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A)”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

(p) REPORT ON USE OF SUBPOENA AUTHORITY TO GET ENERGY INFORMATION.—Section 502(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6382(f)) is repealed.

(q) CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY CONCERNING TERMINATION OF LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 451 of the Energy Conservation in Existing Buildings Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6881) is amended, in subsection (d) and in the first sentence of subsection (e)(1), by striking “and the Comptroller General”.

(r) REPORT ON POLLUTION CONTROL STRATEGIES AND EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS OF CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990.—Section 812(b) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 7612 note) is repealed.

(s) REPORT ON ENERGY CONSERVATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Section 801(c) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)”; and  
(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(t) EVALUATION OF HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 105 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11304) is amended—

(1) by striking “shall annually” and inserting “may”; and

(2) by striking “, and submit to the Congress an annual summary of the status of each program authorized under this Act”.

(u) CONSULTATION ON ACCOUNTING, AUDIT AND FISCAL PROCEDURES.—Section 30203(b)(5) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13753(b)(5)) is amended by striking “after consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States”.

(v) STUDY OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.—Section 6026 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-239) is repealed.

(w) REPORT ON GEOGRAPHIC COST ADJUSTMENT FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 135(c)(2) of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-432) is amended—

(1) by striking the dash and “(A)” and inserting a comma, and

(2) by striking “; and” and all that follows and inserting a period.

#### SEC. 123. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE (PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS).

(a) AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.—Section 309 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) The Inspector General of the Government Printing Office shall audit the financial and operational activities of the Government Printing Office each year. The audits shall be conducted under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing. For purposes of the audits, the Inspector General shall have such access to the records, files, personnel, and facilities of the Government Printing Office as the Inspector General considers appropriate. The Inspector General shall furnish reports of the audits to the Congress and the Public Printer.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(e) The Public Printer shall prepare an annual financial statement meeting the requirements of section 3515(b) of title 31, United States Code. Each financial statement shall be audited in accordance with applicable generally accepted Government auditing standards—

“(1) by an independent external auditor selected by the Public Printer, or

“(2) at the request of the Joint Committee on Printing, by the Inspector General of the Government Printing Office.

“(f) The Comptroller General of the United States may audit the financial statement prepared under subsection (e) at his or her discretion or at the request of the Joint Committee on Printing. An audit by the Comptroller General shall be in lieu of the audit otherwise required by that subsection.”

(b) PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(1) Section 1311 of title 44, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking out the item relating to section 1311.

#### SEC. 124. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 45, UNITED STATES CODE (RAILROADS).

Section 1036(f) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (45 U.S.C. 831 note) is amended by striking “and annually thereafter.”

#### SEC. 125. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE (SHIPPING).

Section 901(a) of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1241(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “; Provided, That the Comptroller General of the United States” and inserting “; The Administrator of General Services shall prescribe regulations under which agencies”; and

(2) by striking “credit any allowance” and inserting “pay for or reimburse officers or employees”.

#### SEC. 126. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 47, UNITED STATES CODE (TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES, AND RADIO-TELEGRAPHS).

(a) APPROVE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR VALUING VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Section 397(9) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 397(9)) is amended, in the last sentence—

(1) by striking “and approved by the Comptroller General pursuant to section 396(g)(5)”; and

(2) by striking “with respect to such services provided to public telecommunications entities after such standards are approved by the Comptroller General and only”.

(b) REPORT ON PAYMENTS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CARRIERS FOR INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) Section 112(b)(1) of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (47 U.S.C. 1010(b)(1)) is amended by amending the matter preceding subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(1) On or before April 1, 1996, the Comptroller General of the United States, and every two years thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, shall submit to the Congress a report, after consultation with the Attorney General and the telecommunications industry—”

(2) Section 112(b)(2) of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (47 U.S.C. 1010(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) after “include”, by striking “the”; and

(B) by striking “of the Comptroller General”.

#### SEC. 127. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE (TRANSPORTATION).

(a) AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.—Section 5334(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Comptroller General shall” and inserting “for”.

(b) REPORT ON MASS TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.—Sections 5335(c) and 5335(d) of title 49, United States Code, are each amended by striking “and in January of every 2d year after 1993”.

(c) AUDIT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL RAIL FREIGHT SERVICE.—Section 22107(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the Comptroller General”.

(d) TRANSPORTATION BY FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS.—Section 40118(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “Comptroller General shall” and inserting “Administrator of General Services shall prescribe regulations under which agencies may”.

(e) AUDIT OF AVIATION INSURANCE OFFERED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.—Section 44308(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “. The Comptroller General shall audit those accounts” and inserting “for audit”.

(f) AUDIT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AIRPORT AND AIRWAY DEVELOPMENT.—Section 47121(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary”; and

(2) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking “Not later than April 15 of each year, the”, and inserting “The”; and

(B) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(3) by striking the third sentence.

(g) STUDY OF ENHANCED PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—Section 9206 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508) is repealed.

**SEC. 128. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 50, UNITED STATES CODE (WAR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE).**

(a) AUDIT OF TERMINATION PAYMENTS ON CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS.—Section 1 of the Act of March 30, 1949 (62 Stat. 17; 50 U.S.C. 491), is amended in the third sentence of the second paragraph—

(1) by striking “no termination payment shall be final until audited and approved by”;

(2) by striking “which” after “General Accounting Office”; and

(3) by inserting “of audit” after “purpose”.

(b) DETERMINATIONS OF ENTITLEMENT TO WAR CLAIM AWARDS.—Section 213(d) of the War Claims Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. App. 2017(d)) is amended by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(c) FOREIGN POLICY CONTROLS: CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.—Section 6(f)(3) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(f)(3)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

**SEC. 129. AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Section 145 of the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act (sec. 1-725, D.C. Code) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “(1)”,

(ii) by striking “and the Comptroller General”, and

(iii) by striking “each” the first and third places it appears; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In subsection (c)(1), by striking “Comptroller General pursuant to subsection (b)” and inserting “enrolled actuary pursuant to subsection (a)”.

(3) In subsection (c)(3)(A)—

(A) by striking “Comptroller General pursuant to subsection (b)” and inserting “enrolled actuary pursuant to subsection (a)”;

(B) by striking “and the Comptroller General”; and

(C) by striking “of the Comptroller General”.

(4) In subsection (c)(3)(B), by striking “the Comptroller General, the Board,” and inserting “the Board”.

(5) In subsection (c)(3)(C)(1)—

(A) by striking “The Comptroller General, on the basis of such reports from the Board and” and inserting “The Board, on the basis of such reports from”;

(B) by striking “The Comptroller General shall report the amount of such reduction so caused to the Board and” and inserting “The Board shall report the amount of such reduction so caused”; and

(C) by striking “he receives” and inserting “the Board receives”.

(6) In subsection (c)(3)(C)(2), by striking “by the Comptroller General”.

**TITLE II—CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ENACT TRANSFERS AND DELEGATIONS OF FUNCTIONS UNDER OTHER LAWS**

**SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this title is to amend provisions of law to reflect, update, and enact transfers and subsequent delegations of functions made under section 211 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-53, 109 Stat. 535), as in effect immediately before this title takes effect.

**SEC. 202. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

(a) CLAIMS FOR PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS.—Section 5564(h) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “General Accounting Office” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator of General Services”.

(b) SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF DECEASED EMPLOYEES.—Section 5583 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “Comptroller General of the United States” and inserting “Director of the Office of Personnel Management”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking the first sentence and inserting: “The Director may by regulation prescribe the method for settlement of accounts payable under subsection (a) of this section.”

(c) REMISSION OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.—Section 2312 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(d) DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY.—Section 2575(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “Comptroller General of the United States” both places it appears and inserting “Secretary of Defense”.

(e) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—Sections 2733(d) and 2734(d) of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(f) SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF DECEASED MEMBERS.—Section 2771(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Payments under subsection (a) shall be made by the Secretary of Defense.”

(g) DISPOSITION OF EFFECTS OF DECEASED MEMBERS.—Sections 4712 and 9712 of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking subsection (g).

(h) SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS.—Section 7 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C. 1626) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “Comptroller General of the United States” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”; and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking “, or the Comptroller General of the United States, as the case may be.”

(i) ESTATES OF DECEDENTS.—Section 1709 of the Revised Statutes (22 U.S.C. 4195) is amended—

(1) by striking “General Accounting Office” each place it appears and inserting “Department of State”;

(2) in the penultimate paragraph—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “Comptroller General of the United States, or such member of the General Accounting Office as he may duly empower to act as his representative for the purpose,” and inserting “Secretary of State or the Secretary’s representative”; and

(B) by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of State”; and

(3) in the last paragraph—

(A) by striking “office” and inserting “department”; and

(B) by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “Secretary of State”.

(j) DISPOSITION OF EFFECTS OF DECEASED ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS.—Section 1520 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 420) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(C)—

(A) by striking “Comptroller General of the United States” in the second sentence and inserting “Secretary of Defense”; and

(B) by striking “Comptroller General” in the third sentence and inserting “Secretary”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “Comptroller General of the United States” in paragraph (1) and inserting “Secretary of Defense”; and

(B) by striking “Comptroller General” in paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting “Secretary”.

(k) PAYMENT OF JUDGMENTS AND COMPROMISE SETTLEMENTS.—Section 2414 of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the first paragraph by striking “General Accounting Office” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(l) PAYMENT OF JUDGMENTS.—Section 2517(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “General Accounting Office” and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(m) JUDGMENT FUND CERTIFICATIONS.—Section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “Comptroller General” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the Treasury”.

(n) CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3702 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the heading by striking “of the Comptroller General”;

(B) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Except as provided in this chapter or another law, all claims of or against the United States Government shall be settled as follows:

“(1) The Secretary of Defense shall settle—

“(A) claims involving uniformed service members’ pay, allowances, travel, transportation, retired pay, and survivor benefits; and

“(B) claims by transportation carriers involving amounts collected from them for loss or damage incurred to property incident to shipment at Government expense.

“(2) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall settle claims involving Federal civilian employees’ compensation and leave.

“(3) The Administrator of General Services shall settle claims involving expenses incurred by Federal civilian employees for official travel and transportation, and for relocation expenses incident to transfers of official duty station.

“(4) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall settle claims not otherwise provided for by this subsection or another provision of law.”

(C) in subsection (b)(1), by amending that portion of the second sentence preceding subparagraph (A) to read “The claim must be received by the official responsible under subsection (a) for settling the claim or by the agency that conducts the activity from which the claim arises within 6 years after the claim accrues except—”;

(D) in subsection (b)(2) by striking “presented to the Comptroller General” and inserting “received”, and by striking “clause” and inserting “paragraph”;

(E) by amending subsection (b)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) A claim that is not received in the time required under this subsection shall be returned with a copy of this subsection, and no further communication is required.”; and

(F) in subsection (d), by striking “Comptroller General” the first place it appears and inserting “official responsible under subsection (a) for settling the claim”; and by striking “Comptroller General” every other place it appears and inserting “official”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in the table of sections at the beginning of the chapter, by amending the item relating to section 3702 to read as follows:

“3702. Authority to settle claims.”.

(o) TRANSPORTATION CLAIMS.—Section 3726 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f) by striking “and the Comptroller General prescribe jointly” and inserting “prescribes”; and



(2) in subsection (g)(1) by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Administrator of General Services".

(p) SETOFF AGAINST JUDGMENTS.—Section 3728 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking "Comptroller General" the first place it appears and inserting "Secretary of the Treasury"; and

(2) by striking "Comptroller General" each place it appears thereafter and inserting "Secretary".

(q) SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF DECEASED MEMBERS.—Section 714(c) of title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Secretary concerned"; and

(2) by striking the second sentence.

(r) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS RELATING TO NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVITIES.—Section 715(d) of title 32, United States Code, is amended by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Secretary of the Treasury".

(s) CLAIMS FOR NET PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS.—Section 554(h) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking "General Accounting Office" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary of Defense".

(t) CANCELLATION OF CHECKS MAILED TO DECEASED PAYEES.—Section 5122 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "upon settlement by the General Accounting Office".

(u) WAIVER OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.—Section 10(a) of the Act of September 5, 1950 (64 Stat. 591; 41 U.S.C. 256a), is amended by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Secretary of the Treasury".

#### SEC. 203. REPEAL.

Section 211 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-53; 109 Stat. 535) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 211. Personnel transferred pursuant to this section, as in effect immediately before the effective date of section 303 of the General Accounting Office Act of 1996, shall not be separated or reduced in classification or compensation for one year after any such transfer, except for cause."

#### SEC. 204. AUTHORITY TO RENDER DECISIONS.

Section 3529(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "The Comptroller General shall" and inserting "(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Comptroller General shall"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) A decision requested under this section concerning a function transferred to or vested in the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 211(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996 (109 Stat. 535), as in effect immediately before the effective date of title II of the General Accounting Office Act of 1996, or under this Act, shall be issued—

"(A) by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, except as provided in subparagraph (B); or

"(B) in the case of a function delegated by the Director to another agency, by the head of the agency to which the function was delegated."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE].

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the General Accounting Office has provided the U.S. Congress and the American people with information about the operation of the Federal Government since 1921. Since that time, the GAO has investigated, audited and testified about nearly every topic under the Sun. When Members of Congress need accurate, objective facts, they turn to the capable work of the auditors and investigators at the GAO.

However, many things have changed since 1921. Title I of this bill eliminates over 100 statutory mandates that Congress has previously imposed upon the GAO. Most of these mandates are auditing and reporting requirements that no longer represent the most effective use of the GAO's limited resources.

The bill also transfers certain executive-type functions from the GAO to the Office of Management and Budget and other executive branch agencies which are better suited to perform these functions.

The GAO has undergone a 25-percent reduction in its budget over the last 2 years. Enactment of H.R. 3864 will help the GAO deal with the effects of this large budget reduction.

GAO officials have estimated that relieving the agencies of the mandates covered by this bill will result in a savings of between \$7 to \$10 million, which can be applied against the budget reductions already made. The Congressional Budget Office has also estimated that the enactment of this bill will result in a savings consistent with the 25-percent reduction in GAO's budget.

The amendments to H.R. 3864 conform the bill to the version reported by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. A list of the mandates that are included in this bill was circulated for review by all chairs and ranking members of each House committee having jurisdiction over them. There were no objections to the repeals and transfers now contained in the bill.

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Finally, H.R. 3864 has been reviewed by OMB, and no objections were raised. Title I of the bill makes conforming amendments to provisions of law that reflect transfer of GAO functions to other agencies enacted last year by section 211 of the fiscal year 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD with my remarks a section-by-section analysis of the bills.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF H.R. 3864

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Section 1 provides that the bill may be cited as the "General Accounting Office Act of 1996."

##### TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO LAWS AUTHORIZING AUDITING, REPORTING, AND OTHER FUNCTIONS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

###### In general

Title I eliminates over 100 existing statutory mandates affecting the General Accounting Office (GAO) that do not represent the most efficient and effective use of GAO's limited resources. Most of the provisions of

title I fall into one of the following two categories:

*Elimination of "executive" type functions.* These provisions relieve GAO of statutory functions that do not further GAO's current mission and are more appropriate for performance by the Executive Branch. Functions that are still relevant to government operations are transferred to Executive Branch agencies. Certain obsolete functions are repealed.

*Elimination of auditing and reporting mandates.* These provisions relieve GAO of statutory auditing and reporting requirements, while preserving GAO's authority to conduct the audit pursuant to a specific Congressional request or at its own initiative. Thus, the provisions give GAO flexibility to apply its resources where they are most needed.

Title I includes a number of other provisions that will enhance the efficiency of GAO's operations, and eliminate unnecessary paperwork requirements for GAO as well as Executive Branch agencies. For example, title I eliminates a number of mandates for Executive agencies to submit copies of information to GAO where GAO is not required to take action with respect to the information and could readily obtain the information if needed.

The provisions of title I, described below, are organized by the location of the affected statutory mandates in the United States Code.

#### SEC. 101. TRANSFERS AND TERMINATIONS OF FUNCTIONS.

Section 101 contains standard transition, incidental transfer, and savings provisions relating to those functions transferred from GAO to Executive Branch agencies. Among other things, it authorizes the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to delegate to other Executive agencies functions transferred to OMB.

#### SEC. 102. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE.

Subsection (a) makes discretionary rather than mandatory GAO reports on reductions in Congressional staff levels.

Subsection (b) makes discretionary rather than mandatory GAO investigations of applications for waiver of recovery of overpayments to Senate employees that exceed \$1,500. It also deletes the limitation on the Secretary of the Senate's authority to grant waiver when there is an exception by GAO. GAO rarely, if ever, conducts the type of voucher audits that could lead to exceptions. If there was such an exception, the Secretary would still be free to take it into account when deciding whether waiver is appropriate.

Subsection (c) deletes a limitation on the authority of the Speaker of the House to waive claims against House employees arising out of erroneous payments of pay and allowances if the claim is the subject of a GAO exception.

Subsection (d) deletes a requirement that GAO report within 30 days on whether each budget sequestration order by the President is necessary, and whether the order and any related reports are in compliance with the law. The amendment requires GAO to make the compliance report only when asked to do so by either the Senate or House Budget Committee.

#### SEC. 103. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

Subsection (a) deletes the requirement for the Special Counsel of the Merit Systems Protection Board to send copies of certain documents to GAO.

Subsection (b) deletes a requirement that GAO report to the Attorney General on certain balances owed to the government by Federal employees. The amendment substitutes the employing agency for GAO.

Subsection (c) transfers from GAO to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) responsibility to prescribe regulations governing how Federal employees designate beneficiaries to receive money due to them in the event of their deaths.

Subsection (d) transfers from GAO to OMB responsibility to issue regulations and make determinations concerning waivers of recovery of erroneous payments of pay and allowances to Federal civilian employees.

Subsection (e) eliminates the requirement that GAO consult with the Administrator of General Services on annual reports concerning the cost of official travel, including the use of privately owned vehicles by Federal employees on official business.

Subsection (f) eliminates the mandate for annual GAO reports on Federal agency compliance with requirements that Federal employees on temporary duty use lodgings that meet fire and safety standards.

Subsection (g) transfers from GAO to the Secretary of the Treasury responsibility for prescribing procedures for the deposit in the Treasury of Federal employee contributions to the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

Subsection (h) deletes the requirement that the Secretary of the Treasury send GAO copies of reports to the Congress on the operation and status of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

Subsection (i) deletes the requirement that the Secretary of the Treasury send GAO copies of reports to the Congress on the operation and status of the Thrift Savings Fund.

Subsection (j) deletes the requirement that copies of annual financial audits of the Thrift Savings Fund by a qualified public accountant be sent to GAO.

#### **SEC. 104. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 7, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) makes discretionary rather than mandatory GAO audits and reports on the operation of the Washington Family Independence Demonstration Project.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that GAO receive and review annual reports to Congress by the Secretary of Agriculture on expenditures by the Department for procurement of advisory and assistance services.

#### **SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) deletes the requirement that GAO determine, jointly with the secretary of the military service concerned, whether waiver of recovery is appropriate for overpayments of beneficiaries of service members under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan or the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Subsection (b) transfers from GAO to OMB responsibility to issue regulations and make determinations concerning waivers of recovery of erroneous payments of pay and allowances to members of the uniformed services.

Subsection (c) deletes the requirement that the head of a military department transmit to GAO certifications that uncollected advances in military financial accounts are uncollectible and should be written off.

Subsection (d) deletes requirements that GAO maintain accounts related to receipts and expenditures of the military departments, and that GAO submit annual and other reports to the Secretary of the Treasury on such accounts.

Subsection (e) repeals GAO's responsibility to settle claims by commercial telegraph or radio companies to collect forwarding charges owed them in connection with their cooperation with Army and Air Force communications activities.

#### **SEC. 106. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 12, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) deletes the mandate that GAO conduct a study of a demonstration

project to test the effectiveness of counseling in preventing defaults and foreclosures on FHA-insured loans.

Subsection (b) eliminates the mandate for annual GAO audits of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Resolution Trust Corporation to determine their compliance with least cost resolution requirements.

Subsection (c) eliminates the mandate that GAO report on compliance by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation with obligation limits and repayment requirements after each calendar quarter in which FDIC has certain obligations outstanding.

Subsection (d) eliminates the requirement that GAO review annually all reports of material losses to deposit insurance funds.

Subsection (e) eliminates the requirement that GAO evaluate and report on the feasibility and appropriateness of authorizing the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation to establish a risk-based insurance premium structure, to collect supplemental premiums, and to assess associations.

Subsection (f) deletes the requirement for annual GAO audits on the actuarial soundness and reasonableness of loan guarantee fees established by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Subsection (g) eliminates requirements for GAO to conduct studies and issue reports on the adequacy and quality of real estate appraisals used by financial institutions for certain real estate-related transactions.

Subsection (h) eliminates requirements for GAO to audit the operations of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

Subsection (i) adds language to section 11(t) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to reaffirm that a banking agency does not waive litigation privileges by providing information to GAO. It appears that GAO is an "agency" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 6, and, therefore, already is covered by section 11(t) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. By explicitly referring to GAO in section 11(t), the amendment removes any question that may exist.

#### **SEC. 107. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 107 eliminates the requirement that GAO report on certifications that Federal funds may be used to build or buy certain office space that is not protected by an automatic sprinkler system or the equivalent because no suitable building is available at an affordable cost.

#### **SEC. 108. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 16, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that copies of certain licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission be deposited with GAO.

Subsection (b) repeals the requirement that GAO report periodically on the operations of the Brownsville Wetlands Policy Center.

Subsection (c) eliminates requirements that GAO report on the allocation of costs of the Central Utah Project, and that GAO prescribe regulations for conducting audits. The amendment transfers responsibility for the report to the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior and deletes the requirement for regulations.

Subsection (d) eliminates the requirement for GAO to audit and report on the costs and benefits of management policies and operations of the Glen Canyon Dam.

#### **SEC. 109. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that GAO determine whether improvements to non-government property at public expense, for the purpose of protecting the President or anyone else entitled to Secret

Service protection, have increased the property's fair market value. The amendment transfers this responsibility to the Director of the Secret Service.

Subsection (b) deletes the requirement that the Comptroller General serve as a member of a board that settles disputes over purchases of Federal Prison Industry Products by Federal agencies. The amendment leaves the Attorney General, the Administrator of General Services, and the President, or their representatives, as members.

#### **SEC. 110. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 19, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that GAO conduct annual financial audits of the Customs Forfeiture Fund.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that the Customs Service report to GAO on the sale or other disposition of a business entity used by the Customs Service as part of an undercover investigation. It retains the requirement that such reports be made to the Secretary of the Treasury.

#### **SEC. 111. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 22, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that accounts on advances of appropriated funds made to the U.S. Commissioner serving on the International Joint Commission on the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters be submitted to GAO.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirements for GAO to prepare, for the Secretary of the Treasury, the scope of the audit and the auditing and reporting standards for use in connection with audits of the Inter-American Development Bank, and to periodically review the audits.

Subsection (c) eliminates the requirement that GAO review and report annually on the first three of the Commerce Department's annual reports concerning direct foreign investment in the United States.

#### **SEC. 112. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 25, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that copies of contracts entered into for the Indian Service be sent to GAO. (The functions of the former Indian Service are now vested in the Secretary of the Interior.)

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that copies of abstracts of bids or proposals on any contract in connection with activities of the Indian Service be filed with GAO.

#### **SEC. 113. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 26, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 113 eliminates the requirement that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue report to GAO on the sale or other disposition of a business entity used by IRS as part of an undercover investigation. It retains the requirement that such reports be made to the Secretary of the Treasury.

#### **SEC. 114. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 114 eliminates GAO's responsibility to issue certificates releasing property liens in favor of the United States.

#### **SEC. 115. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) deletes the requirement that certain records obtained by GAO in conducting audits of Federal banking agencies be stored at banking agency locations. This eliminates a barrier to consolidating GAO's banking agency auditors at the GAO headquarters building—a move that would result in cost savings and greater efficiency in operations. Existing statutory requirements to ensure that GAO safeguards sensitive banking information are retained.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that GAO report annually on: procedures prescribed to protect the confidentiality of tax return information; the scope and subject matter of GAO audits of the Internal



Revenue Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of such audits.

Subsection (c) deletes the mandate that GAO report on compliance with requirements for reductions in administrative costs in the Legislative Branch.

Subsection (d) eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of the Treasury, when on notice of a question of law or fact about a check drawn on the Treasury, defer payment of the check until GAO settles the question. It also repeals the requirement for GAO approval of Treasury regulations on payment of government checks and drafts.

Subsection (e) eliminates the requirements that the Secretary of the Treasury send to GAO government checks intended to be sent to foreign countries on which the Secretary withholds payment, and that GAO credit the accounts of the drawer and the drawee for the amount of the check. The amendment transfers the check-crediting function to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Subsection (f) repeals the requirement that when the head of an Executive department determines that an accountable officer should be held liable for the loss of government property, the department head must certify the charge to GAO in order for GAO to charge the appropriate account for the amount of the loss. This provision of existing law reflects a method of accounting for losses that has been superseded.

Subsection (g) eliminates the Comptroller General's responsibility to prescribe, with the Attorney General claims collection standards governing collection and compromise of claims in favor of the Federal Government. The amendment leaves authority for the standards with the Attorney General.

Subsection (h) deletes the mandate for GAO to audit the payment to private recipients of surcharges assigned to them by law from sales of commemorative coins, and the use and expenditure of the money by the private recipients.

Subsection (i) eliminates the requirement for GAO to report on the implementation of the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990.

Subsection (j) eliminates the requirement that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development consult with GAO on guidelines for accounting, audit, and fiscal procedures to be used by local governments to qualify for crime prevention grants.

Subsection (k) eliminates the requirement for GAO to review activities of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to evaluate compliance with requirements of the crime prevention block grant program under the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

#### **SEC. 116. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 32, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 116 transfers from GAO to OMB responsibility to issue regulations and make determinations concerning waivers of recovery of erroneous payments of pay and allowances to National Guard personnel.

#### **SEC. 117. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 33, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 117 deletes the requirement that GAO report and make recommendations on how to improve the equitable distribution of water resources development projects in rural areas, and on giving greater emphasis to benefits assumed to result from such projects.

#### **SEC. 118. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 118 deletes the requirement that the Comptroller General, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, fix the date of

loss of naval vessels that are presumed lost, for purposes of settling accounts of certain persons aboard the vessels.

#### **SEC. 119. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 119 eliminates the mandate that GAO report on any plan by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a systematic reduction of the number of Department employees at a specific grade level. The amendment provides that such a report is required only when requested by either the Senate or House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### **SEC. 120. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 40, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) deletes the requirement that GAO approve the payment of expenses incurred in connection with the sale of public property.

Subsection (b) deletes the requirement that the Administrator of General Services send to GAO copies of determinations to exceed the statutory limit that otherwise applies to expenditures for repair or improvement of rented property.

#### **SEC. 121. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 41, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) repeals requirements that GAO review termination settlements with war contractors; report to agencies on settlements that may have been induced by fraud; and report to Congress on agency settlement procedures.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that the Administrator of General Services send to GAO records prepared in connection with termination settlements with war contractors.

Subsection (c) eliminates the requirement that the Executive Branch officials send GAO copies of their determinations to omit the GAO access-to-records clause from negotiated contracts and determinations to make advance payments to contractors.

#### **SEC. 122. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 42, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) deletes the requirement that the Secretary of Health and Human Services consult with GAO on annual reporting of administrative and support expenses of the National Institutes of Health.

Subsection (b) deletes the requirements for GAO to report on whether the law establishing the National Foundation for Biomedical Research adequately prevents conflicts of interest, and to report on compliance with guidelines established under the law.

Subsection (c) eliminates the requirement that GAO, in cooperation with the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, evaluate at least every three years the use of grants for assistance in transition from homelessness. The amendment makes the Administrator solely responsible for the periodic evaluations. The amendment also eliminates a requirement that the Secretary of Health and Human Services consult with the Comptroller General on the content of annual reports by States on the program.

Subsections (d) through (f) delete the requirements that the Secretary of Health and Human Services consult with the Comptroller General on the content of annual reports by the States on their use of various grants.

Subsection (g) eliminates the requirement that GAO review and report on the proposal of the Secretary of Health and Human Services for more accurately calculating a reimbursement rate for medical care providers that enter into risk-sharing agreements with the Secretary.

Subsection (h) eliminates the requirement for GAO to review the ownership of hospitals and other providers of Medicare services by referring physicians.

Subsection (i) eliminates the requirement for GAO to report annually on pricing of pre-

scription drugs sold to the Federal Government, purchasing groups, and managed care plans.

Subsection (j) eliminates the requirement for a GAO study of a demonstration project, under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to attract pension fund investment in affordable housing.

Subsection (k) eliminates the requirement that GAO conduct an annual audit of the integral set of accounts required to be maintained by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with low-income housing programs.

Subsection (l) deletes the requirement for GAO to submit reports on the Family Self-Sufficiency program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Subsection (m) eliminates the requirement that the Comptroller General serve in an advisory capacity and perform certain oversight functions with respect to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement. The amendment grants GAO discretion over its provision of assistance to the Commission.

Subsection (n) repeals the requirement for GAO to report on the Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention program.

Subsection (o) repeals the requirement that GAO audit each recipient of a loan guarantee for alternative fuel demonstration facilities every 6 months that the guarantee is in effect.

Subsection (p) eliminates the requirement for an annual report by GAO on its exercise, if any, of subpoena authority under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

Subsection (q) deletes the requirement that the Secretary of Energy consult with GAO concerning the terms and conditions of offers of government guarantees of financing for energy and renewable resource development.

Subsection (r) eliminates the mandate for GAO to report annually on the incremental costs and benefits of pollution control strategies required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and to conduct a study of the effects of the Amendments on employment.

Subsection (s) eliminates the requirement for a series of annual reports by GAO on efforts by Federal agencies to save energy through contracts.

Subsection (t) eliminates the requirement that GAO report annually on the use of funds for certain programs under the McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments of 1990.

Subsection (u) eliminates the requirement that the Attorney General consult with GAO before issuing guidelines for accounting procedures to be used by local governments to qualify for crime prevention grants under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

Subsection (v) deletes the requirement that GAO report on the differences between hospital-based and freestanding skilled nursing facilities under Medicare.

Subsection (w) eliminates the requirement that GAO analyze, on a geographic basis, the supplier costs for durable medical equipment under Medicare.

#### **SEC. 123. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that GAO audit the Government Printing Office (GPO) at least every 3 years. The amendment adds a requirement that the Public Printer prepare an annual financial statement for GPO. It also substitutes for the GAO audit mandate a requirement for an annual audit covering both financial and operational activities, to be conducted either by an independent external auditor selected by the Public Printer or, at the request of the Joint Committee on Printing, by the Inspector General of GPO. The amendment preserves GAO's authority to audit GPO financial statements on a self-initiated basis or at

the request of the Joint Committee, and provides that when the Comptroller General conducts such an audit, it is in lieu of the audits described above.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that the Public Printer print a minimum number of copies annually of a single volume containing selected decisions and opinions of the Comptroller General. All Comptroller General decisions and opinions are today distributed widely through other means, including commercial publication from a variety of sources on paper, CD-ROM, and in electronic databases, as well as from GAO and other government sources through the Internet. Repealing the requirement for annual publication of a volume of relatively few decisions will save money without diminishing public availability of the information.

**SEC. 124. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 45, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 124 deletes the requirement for an annual GAO report on the effectiveness of the loan guarantee program for high-speed rail facilities provided for in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

**SEC. 125. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Section 125 transfers from GAO to the General Services Administration (GSA) responsibility to disallow payment for Federal employee travel costs or shipping costs on non-American flag ships in the absence of proof of necessity for use of a foreign-flag ship.

**SEC. 126. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 47, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement that GAO approve standards set by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for valuing the services of volunteers, in order to measure the level of non-Federal financial support for public broadcasting.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that GAO report every two years on payments by the Attorney General to telecommunications carriers for interception of communications, pursuant to the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act. The amendment substitutes the Inspector General of the Department of Justice for GAO.

**SEC. 127. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement for GAO financial audits of the accounts of the Department of Transportation.

Subsection (b) eliminates the requirement that GAO evaluate, every two years, the extent to which current mass transportation needs are addressed adequately and estimate future mass transportation needs.

Subsection (c) eliminates the requirement that GAO make regular financial and performance audits of local rail freight activities supported by the Department of Transportation.

Subsection (d) transfers from GAO to GSA responsibility to disallow reimbursement to Federal employees and officers traveling overseas on official business for use of foreign air carriers, unless satisfactory proof of necessity is presented.

Subsection (e) eliminates the requirement for GAO financial audits of accounts maintained by the Secretary of Transportation in connection with aviation insurance offered by the Department of Transportation.

Subsection (f) deletes requirements that GAO report annually to the Congress on all GAO audits, and on all reviews by GAO of independent audits, of recipients of grants for airport and airway development.

Subsection (g) deletes the requirement for GAO to conduct a study of the advisability of giving enhanced procurement authority to the Federal Aviation Administration.

**SEC. 128. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TITLE 50, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Subsection (a) eliminates the requirement for GAO audit and approval of termination payments by the Secretary of the Air Force for procurement of the semiautomatic ground environment system.

Subsection (b) transfers from GAO to the Treasury Department responsibility to settle claims for payments from the War Claims Fund on behalf of individuals who are deceased or under a legal disability.

Subsection (c) eliminates the requirement that GAO receive and assess the President's reports to Congress on foreign policy controls over exports under the Export Administration Act of 1979.

**SEC. 129. AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Section 129 deletes a provision of the District of Columbia Code requiring that GAO receive and comment on annual reports by the enrolled actuary of the District Retirement Board on the District of Columbia Retirement Fund for Police and Firefighters.

**TITLE III—CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ENACT TRANSFERS AND DELEGATIONS OF FUNCTIONS UNDER OTHER LAWS**

*In general*

Section 211 of the Legislation Branch Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-53, 109 Stat. 535) transferred a number of GAO's "executive" type functions to OMB, effective on June 30, 1996, and authorized the Director of OMB to delegate those functions to other Federal agencies. In all but a few cases, the Director has now delegated the functions.

Title II of the bill makes conforming amendments to the statutes underlying the functions covered by section 211 of the 1996 Appropriations Act in order to reflect the transfers to OMB and further delegations by OMB of those functions. For the most part, the conforming amendments of title II delete references to the Comptroller General or GAO in these underlying statutes and substitute references to the officials or agencies now vested with responsibility for the functions pursuant to section 211 of the 1996 Appropriations Act. Where the delegation of a function has not been completed, the conforming amendment reflects that transfer to OMB and preserves the OMB Director's authority to delegate further.

**SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

Section 201 states the purpose of title II, which as described above, is to amend provisions of law to conform to the transfers and delegations of functions made pursuant to section 211 of the 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 202 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

Subsection (a) amends 5 U.S.C. 5564, relating to claims for proceeds from certain property sales, by substituting "the Administrator of General Services" for GAO. This reflects OMB's delegation of the function to GSA.

Subsection (b) amends 5 U.S.C. 5583, relating to the disposition of accounts of deceased Federal employees, by substituting the Director of OPM for the Comptroller General. This reflects OMB's delegation of the function to OPM.

Subsection (c) amends 10 U.S.C. 2312, relating to remission of liquidated damages, by substituting Secretary of the Treasury for Comptroller General in accordance with OMB's delegation.

Subsection (d) amends 10 U.S.C. 2575, relating to the disposition of unclaimed property held by the military departments and the Department of Transportation, by substituting "Secretary of Defense" for GAO in accordance with OMB's delegation.

Subsection (e) amends 10 U.S.C. 2733 and 2734, concerning the payment of certain

claims from the permanent, indefinite appropriation known as the "Judgment Fund," by substituting Secretary of the Treasury for Comptroller General. This reflects OMB's delegation of functions relating to the Judgment Fund to the Treasury Department.

Subsection (f) amends 10 U.S.C. 2771, authorizing the issuance of regulations governing payments to deceased military members, by substituting the Secretary of Defense for the Comptroller General pursuant to OMB's delegation.

Subsection (g) amends 10 U.S.C. 4712 and 9712, which required that certain records concerning disposition of the effects of deceased military members be sent to GAO. The conforming amendment repeals the subsection that required such reports.

Subsection (h) amends section 7 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, 22 U.S.C. 1626, concerning the settlement of certain claims against foreign governments, by substituting Secretary of the Treasury for Comptroller General. This reflects OMB's delegation of the settlement function to the Treasury Department.

Subsection (i) amends section 1709 of the Revised Statutes, 22 U.S.C. 4195, concerning the disposition of the effects of United States citizens who died abroad, to reflect OMB's delegation of this function to the State Department.

Subsection (j) amends section 1520 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991, 24 U.S.C. 420, concerning the disposition of the effects of deceased residents of the Retirement Home, to reflect OMB's delegation of this function to the Secretary of Defense.

Subsections (k) through (m) amend various statutory provisions relating to payments from the Judgment Fund to reflect OMB's delegation of Judgment Fund functions to the Treasury Department.

Subsection (n) amends 31 U.S.C. 3702, concerning the settlement of claims against the United States, to implement OMB's delegations. As reflected in the amendments, OMB has delegated authority to settle certain categories of claims to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Administrator of General Services. Settlement authority for claims that do not fall into any of these categories is retained in OMB, pending further delegation.

Subsection (o) amends 31 U.S.C. 3726, relating to certain transportation claims, by substituting Administrator of General Services for Comptroller General in accordance with OMB's delegation of this function to GSA.

Subsection (p) amends 31 U.S.C. 3728, authorizing setoffs against Judgment Fund payments, to reflect OMB's delegation of Judgment Fund functions to the Treasury Department.

Subsection (q) amends 32 U.S.C. 714, authorizing the Comptroller General to prescribe regulations governing the payment of amounts due to deceased members of the National Guard, to reflect OMB's delegation of this function to the secretaries of the military departments.

Subsection (r) amends 32 U.S.C. 715, relating to payment of certain claims from the Judgment Fund, to reflect OMB's delegation of Judgment Fund functions to the Treasury Department.

Subsection (s) amends 37 U.S.C. 554, relating to claims for proceeds from certain property sales, by substituting the Secretary of Defense for GAO.

Subsection (t) amends 38 U.S.C. 5122 to repeal a reference to GAO's settlement of claims relating to certain canceled checks since GAO no longer exercises such claims settlement authority. See subsection 202(n), above.

Subsection (u) amends section 10 of the Act of September 5, 1950, 41 U.S.C. 256a, relating

to remission of liquidated damages, to reflect OMB's delegation of this function to the Secretary of the Treasury.

#### SEC. 203. REPEAL.

Section 203 repeals those portions of section 211 of the 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act that now have been fully implemented and are, therefore, no longer operative. The protections in section 211 for transferred GAO employees, which remain in effect, are retained.

#### SEC. 204. AUTHORITY TO RENDER DECISIONS.

Section 204 amends 31 U.S.C. 3529 to vest in the Director of OMB responsibility to issue advance decisions to government accountable officers on questions involving functions transferred to the Director under any of the provisions of title I or title II. Where the Director has delegated a function to another Federal agency, the Director may also delegate to that agency responsibility for issuing advance decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take time at this moment to praise the chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], the chairman of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN], and also the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS], and also the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY].

This is an example of a good government bill that was arrived at in bipartisan fashion. As the Chair has indicated, there are amendments to the bill. The bill that we consider today is not the same bill that was originally introduced. Rather than butting heads and saying we could not reach agreement, both sides of the aisle came together and produced this H.R. 3864, as amended. I not only want to commend the Members of Congress who worked on the bill but also the staffs of the subcommittee and the full committee on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to support the bill, H.R. 3864, as amended. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE] has wisely incorporated an amendment striking title I of the original bill, and I appreciate his taking into consideration the views of the minority. That title contains certain controversial provisions such as changing the term and pension of the Comptroller General and establishing an oversight board for the GAO, thereby possibly restricting some of its necessary independence.

The integrity, independence and quality of the GAO are well established and relied on by the public and Members of Congress. We must be extremely careful not to do anything which might damage that practice, reputation and independence.

This bill as amended is almost identical to the one ordered reported unanimously by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. The GAO worked closely with both the majority and minority in helping to draft this statute.

Mr. Speaker, this bill eliminates many unnecessary congressionally mandated reports. In some cases, the GAO needs flexibility rather than being bound to a fixed reporting schedule. In still other cases, the function eliminated would more properly be performed by some other entity like the inspector general or an independent auditor.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the GAO to be governed by common sense, not statutory and bureaucratic mandates that waste the GAO's time and taxpayers' money.

It eliminates procedures instituted for reasons that few people even remember, and it ends pencil pushing for pencil pushing's sake.

The GAO itself estimates that this bill will save between \$6 and \$10 million. Given the GAO's track record, that estimate is probably accurate. Given the recent cuts eliminating these mandatory reports makes common sense and good sense.

The GAO is Congress's and our Nation's primary watchdog agency, responsible for providing credible objective and nonpartisan reports and evaluations of the programs and management of the executive branch.

The GAO has done an excellent job in fulfilling this mandate in a timely and professional manner and despite recent staff and funding cuts. This bill makes its job easier, saves taxpayer money and allows the GAO to be much more efficient. The bill has broad bipartisan support, and I am proud to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 3864.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time urging my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE], that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3864, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend laws authorizing auditing, reporting, and other functions by the General Accounting Office."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 120) supporting the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and the progress of its political and economic reforms, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 120

Whereas August 24, 1996, marks the fifth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the United Nations and the United Nations has established in Ukraine an office to assist Ukraine in building relations with the international community and in coordinating international assistance for Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the Council of Europe, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Central European Initiative, and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic Alliance, is a participant in the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Alliance, and has entered into a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union;

Whereas the United States recognized Ukraine as an independent State on December 25, 1991;

Whereas Ukraine is a major European nation, having the second largest territory and sixth largest population of all the States of Europe;

Whereas Ukraine has an important geopolitical and economic role to play within Central and Eastern Europe and a strong, stable, and secure Ukraine serves the interests of peace and stability in all of Europe, which is also an important national security interest of the United States;

Whereas Ukraine conducted its first presidential and parliamentary elections as an independent State in 1994, carrying such elections out in a free and fair manner and moving further away from the former communist model of one-party, centralized, totalitarian rule;

Whereas Ukraine's presidential elections of July 1994 resulted in the first peaceful transfer of executive power in any of the independent States of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas on June 28, 1996, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a new constitution for Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine's economic and social stability depend on its ability to build a stable market-based economy and a legal system based on the rule of law, attract foreign investment, improve tax and revenue collection, and build its export sectors;

Whereas Ukraine was the first of the independent states of the former Soviet Union to have appointed a civilian to the office of Minister of Defense, an historic precedent in support of civilian control and oversight of the armed forces of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine is pursuing political and economic reforms intended to ensure its future strength, stability, and security and to ensure that it will assume its rightful place among the international community of democratic States and in European and trans-Atlantic institutions;

Whereas through the agreement by the Government of Ukraine to the establishment of a mission from the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the region of Crimea, Ukraine has shown its interest in avoiding the use of force in resolving ethnic and regional disputes within Ukraine;

Whereas all nuclear weapons were removed from Ukraine by June 1, 1996, and Ukraine has taken very positive steps in supporting