

for making a complaint or disclosing information to the Inspector General, unless the complaint was made or the information disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity.

(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) The Inspector General shall submit semiannual reports summarizing the activities of the Office of the Inspector General to the Comptroller General. Such reports shall include, but need not be limited to—

(A) a summary of each significant report made during the reporting period, including a description of significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies disclosed by such report;

(B) a description of the recommendations for corrective action made with respect to significant problems, abuses, or deficiencies described pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(C) a summary of the progress made in implementing such corrective action described pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

(D) information concerning any disagreement the Comptroller General has with a recommendation of the Inspector General.

(2) The Comptroller General shall transmit the semiannual reports of the Inspector General, together with any comments the Comptroller General considers appropriate, to Congress within 30 days after receipt of such reports.

(f) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—The Comptroller General may not prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from carrying out any of the duties or responsibilities of the Inspector General under this section.

(2) BUDGET INDEPENDENCE.—The Comptroller General shall include the annual budget request of the Inspector General in the budget of the Government Accountability Office without change.

(g) AUTHORITY FOR STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall select, appoint, and employ (including fixing and adjusting the rates of pay of) such personnel as may be necessary to carry out this section consistent with the provisions of this title governing selections, appointments, and employment (including the fixing and adjusting the rates of pay) in the Government Accountability Office. Such personnel shall be appointed, promoted, and assigned only on the basis of merit and fitness, but without regard to those provisions of title 5 governing appointments and other personnel actions in the competitive service.

(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Inspector General may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109 of title 5 at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title.

(3) INDEPENDENCE IN APPOINTING STAFF.—No individual may carry out any of the duties or responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General unless the individual is appointed by the Inspector General, or provides services obtained by the Inspector General, pursuant to this paragraph.

(4) LIMITATION ON PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Inspector General and any individual carrying out any of the duties or responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General are prohibited from performing any program responsibilities.

(5) LEGAL ADVICE.—The Inspector General shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing selections, appointments, and employment at the Government Accountability Office, obtain legal advice from a counsel reporting directly to the Inspector General or another Inspector General.

(h) OFFICE SPACE.—The Comptroller General shall provide the Office of the Inspector General—

(1) appropriate and adequate office space;

(2) such equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of the Office of the Inspector General;

(3) necessary maintenance services for such office space, equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities; and

(4) equipment and facilities located in such office space.

(i) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term “Federal agency” means a department, agency, instrumentality, or unit thereof, of the Federal Government.

(Added Pub. L. 110-323, §5(a), Sept. 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 3544; amended Pub. L. 118-131, §2, Nov. 25, 2024, 138 Stat. 1641.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 118-131, §2(1)(A), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), struck out “The Comptroller General shall, promptly upon such removal, communicate in writing the reasons for any such removal to each House of Congress.” at end of subpar. (A), and added subpars. (B) to (D).

Subsecs. (b)(3), (4). Pub. L. 118-131, §2(1)(B), (C), added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 118-131, §2(2), designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (g)(1). Pub. L. 118-131, §2(3)(A), struck out “, except that no personnel of the Office may be paid at an annual rate greater than \$1,000 less than the annual rate of pay of the Inspector General” after “competitive service”.

Subsec. (g)(5). Pub. L. 118-131, §2(3)(B), added par. (5).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

INCUMBENT

Pub. L. 110-323, §5(b), Sept. 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 3547, provided that: “The individual who serves in the position of Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office on the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 22, 2008] shall continue to serve in such position subject to removal in accordance with the amendments made by this section [enacting this section].”

SUBCHAPTER II—GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS

§ 711. General authority

The Comptroller General may—

(1) prescribe regulations to carry out the duties and powers of the Comptroller General;

(2) delegate the duties and powers of the Comptroller General to officers and employees of the Government Accountability Office as the Comptroller General decides is necessary to carry out those duties and powers;

(3) regulate the practice of representatives of persons before the Office; and

(4) administer oaths to witnesses when auditing and settling accounts.

(Pub. L. 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 889; Pub. L. 108-271, § 8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
711	31:44(1st sentence).	June 10, 1921, ch. 18, §304(1st par. 1st sentence), 42 Stat. 24.
	31:52(c), (d).	June 10, 1921, ch. 18, §311(c), (d), 42 Stat. 25; Feb. 15, 1980, Pub. L. 96-191, §8(e)(4), 94 Stat. 33.
	31:52-1(related to direct).	Feb. 15, 1980, Pub. L. 96-191, §2(related to direct), 94 Stat. 27.
	31:117.	R.S. §297.

In clause (1), the words “may . . . prescribe regulations to carry out the duties and powers of the Comptroller General” are substituted for “shall make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for carrying on the work of the General Accounting Office” in 31:52(d) for consistency.

In clause (2), the word “delegate” is substituted for “direct” in 31:52-1, and the words “officers and employees” are substituted for “personnel”, and 31:52(c) is omitted, for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In clause (3), the words “rules and” in 31:52(d) are omitted as surplus. The words “representatives of persons” are substituted for “attorneys” for clarity and consistency in the revised title.

In clause (4), the words “in any case in which they may deem it necessary for the due” in 31:117 are omitted as surplus. The words “auditing and settling” are substituted for “examination” for consistency. The words “with which they shall be charged” are omitted because of the restatement.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2004—Par. (2). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

EXPIRED APPROPRIATIONS AVAILABLE FOR DEPOSIT INTO EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION FUND

Pub. L. 113-6, div. F, title VI, §1611, Mar. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 427, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Available balances of expired Government Accountability Office appropriations shall be available to the Government Accountability Office to make the deposit to the credit of the Employees' Compensation Fund required by section 8147(b) of title 5[,] United States Code.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

§ 712. Investigating the use of public money

The Comptroller General shall—

(1) investigate all matters related to the receipt, disbursement, and use of public money;

(2) estimate the cost to the United States Government of complying with each restriction on expenditures of a specific appropriation in a general appropriation law and report

each estimate to Congress with recommendations the Comptroller General considers desirable;

(3) analyze expenditures of each executive agency the Comptroller General believes will help Congress decide whether public money has been used and expended economically and efficiently;

(4) make an investigation and report ordered by either House of Congress or a committee of Congress having jurisdiction over revenue, appropriations, or expenditures; and

(5) give a committee of Congress having jurisdiction over revenue, appropriations, or expenditures the help and information the committee requests.

(Pub. L. 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 889.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
712(1)	31:53(a)(1st sentence words before 5th comma).	June 10, 1921, ch. 18, §312(a)(1st sentence words before 5th comma), (b), 42 Stat. 25.
712(2)	31:59.	Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 753, §§205, 206(1st sentence), 60 Stat. 837.
712(3)	31:60(1st sentence).	
712(4)	31:53(b)(1st sentence).	
712(5)	31:53(b)(last sentence).	

In clause (1), the words “at the seat of government or elsewhere” are omitted as surplus.

In clause (2), the words “estimate the cost to the United States Government of complying with each restriction on expenditures” are substituted for “make a full and complete study of restrictions . . . limiting the expenditure thereon with a view to determining the cost to the Government incident to complying with such restrictions”, and the word “desirable” is substituted for “necessary or desirable”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (3), the words “executive agency” are substituted for “agency in the executive branch of the Government (including Government corporations)” because of section 102 of the revised title.

In clause (4), the words “committee of Congress” are substituted for “committee of either House” for consistency.

In clause (5), the words “at the request of any such committee, direct assistants from his office” are omitted as surplus.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT AUTHORITY

Pub. L. 116-136, div. B, title IX, §19010, Mar. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 579, as amended by Pub. L. 116-260, div. N, title II, §282, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 1984, provided that:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(F) the Committee on Oversight and Reform [now Committee on Oversight and Accountability] of the House of Representatives;

“(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;