

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 17

To ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. SASSE (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “GAO Access and Over-
5 sight Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.**

7 (a) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Subchapter
8 II of chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended
9 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“§ 721. Access to certain information**

2 “(a) No provision of the Social Security Act, includ-
3 ing section 453(l) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 653(l)), shall
4 be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority
5 of the Comptroller General to obtain any information or
6 to inspect any record under section 716 of this title.

7 “(b) The specific reference to a statute in subsection
8 (a) shall not be construed to affect access by the Govern-
9 ment Accountability Office to information under statutes
10 that are not referenced in subsection (a).”.

11 (b) AGENCY REPORTS.—Section 720(b) of title 31,
12 United States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
14 inserting “or planned” after “action taken”; and

15 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
16 following:

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

1 (c) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.—Section 716
2 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection
3 (a)—

4 (1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(2)”; and
5 (2) by inserting after the section heading the
6 following:

7 “(a)(1) The Comptroller General is authorized to ob-
8 tain such agency records as the Comptroller General re-
9 quires to discharge the duties of the Comptroller General
10 (including audit, evaluation, and investigative duties), in-
11 cluding through the bringing of civil actions under this
12 section. In reviewing a civil action under this section, the
13 court shall recognize the continuing force and effect of the
14 authorization in the preceding sentence until such time as
15 the authorization is repealed pursuant to law.”.

16 (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
17 The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 31, United
18 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
19 ing to section 720 the following:

“721. Access to certain information.”.

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