

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5683

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2008

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

AN ACT

To make certain reforms with respect to the Government
Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CON-**
 2 **TENTS.**

3 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 4 “Government Accountability Office Act of 2008”.

5 (b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly
 6 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed
 7 in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision,
 8 the reference shall be considered to be made to a section
 9 or other provision of title 31, United States Code.

10 (c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 11 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; references; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Provisions relating to future annual pay adjustments.
- Sec. 3. Pay adjustment relating to certain previous years.
- Sec. 4. Lump-sum payment for certain performance-based compensation.
- Sec. 5. Inspector General.
- Sec. 6. Reimbursement of audit costs.
- Sec. 7. Financial disclosure requirements.
- Sec. 8. Highest basic pay rate.
- Sec. 9. Additional authorities.

12 **SEC. 2. PROVISIONS RELATING TO FUTURE ANNUAL PAY**
 13 **ADJUSTMENTS.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 732 is amended by adding
 15 at the end the following:

16 “(j)(1) For purposes of this subsection—

17 “(A) the term ‘pay increase’, as used with re-
 18 spect to an officer or employee in connection with a
 19 year, means the total increase in the rate of basic
 20 pay (expressed as a percentage) of such officer or

1 employee, taking effect under section 731(b) and
2 subsection (c)(3) in such year;

3 “(B) the term ‘required minimum percentage’,
4 as used with respect to an officer or employee in
5 connection with a year, means the percentage equal
6 to the total increase in rates of basic pay (expressed
7 as a percentage) taking effect under sections 5303
8 and 5304–5304a of title 5 in such year with respect
9 to General Schedule positions within the pay locality
10 (as defined by section 5302(5) of title 5) in which
11 the position of such officer or employee is located;

12 “(C) the term ‘covered officer or employee’, as
13 used with respect to a pay increase, means any indi-
14 vidual—

15 “(i) who is an officer or employee of the
16 Government Accountability Office, other than
17 an officer or employee described in subpara-
18 graph (A), (B), or (C) of section 4(c)(1) of the
19 Government Accountability Office Act of 2008,
20 determined as of the effective date of such pay
21 increase; and

22 “(ii) whose performance is at least at a
23 satisfactory level, as determined by the Comp-
24 troller General under the provisions of sub-
25 section (c)(3) for purposes of the adjustment

1 taking effect under such provisions in such
2 year; and

3 “(D) the term ‘nonpermanent merit pay’ means
4 any amount payable under section 731(b) which
5 does not constitute basic pay.

6 “(2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
7 chapter, if (disregarding this subsection) the pay increase
8 that would otherwise take effect with respect to a covered
9 officer or employee in a year would be less than the re-
10 quired minimum percentage for such officer or employee
11 in such year, the Comptroller General shall provide for a
12 further increase in the rate of basic pay of such officer
13 or employee.

14 “(B) The further increase under this subsection—

15 “(i) shall be equal to the amount necessary to
16 make up for the shortfall described in subparagraph
17 (A); and

18 “(ii) shall take effect as of the same date as the
19 pay increase otherwise taking effect in such year.

20 “(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be considered
21 to permit or require that a rate of basic pay be increased
22 to an amount inconsistent with the limitation set forth in
23 subsection (c)(2).

24 “(D) If (disregarding this subsection) the covered of-
25 ficer or employee would also have received any nonperma-

1 nent merit pay in such year, such nonpermanent merit pay
2 shall be decreased by an amount equal to the portion of
3 such officer's or employee's basic pay for such year which
4 is attributable to the further increase described in sub-
5 paragraph (A) (as determined by the Comptroller Gen-
6 eral), but to not less than zero.

7 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
8 chapter, the effective date of any pay increase (within the
9 meaning of paragraph (1)(A)) taking effect with respect
10 to a covered officer or employee in any year shall be the
11 same as the effective date of any adjustment taking effect
12 under section 5303 of title 5 with respect to statutory pay
13 systems (as defined by section 5302(1) of title 5) in such
14 year.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
16 this section shall apply with respect to any pay increase
17 (as defined by such amendment) taking effect on or after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 3. PAY ADJUSTMENT RELATING TO CERTAIN PRE-**
20 **VIOUS YEARS.**

21 (a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies in the case
22 of any individual who, as of the date of the enactment
23 of this Act, is an officer or employee of the Government
24 Accountability Office, excluding—

1 (1) an officer or employee described in subpara-
2 graph (A), (B), or (C) of section 4(c)(1); and

3 (2) an officer or employee who received both a
4 2.6 percent pay increase in January 2006 and a 2.4
5 percent pay increase in February 2007.

6 (b) PAY INCREASE DEFINED.—For purposes of this
7 section, the term “pay increase”, as used with respect to
8 an officer or employee in connection with a year, means
9 the total increase in the rate of basic pay (expressed as
10 a percentage) of such officer or employee, taking effect
11 under sections 731(b) and 732(c)(3) of title 31, United
12 States Code, in such year.

13 (c) PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.—Effective with respect to
14 pay for service performed in any pay period beginning
15 after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date
16 of the enactment of this Act (or such earlier date as the
17 Comptroller General may specify), the rate of basic pay
18 for each individual to whom this section applies shall be
19 determined as if such individual had received both a 2.6
20 percent pay increase for 2006 and a 2.4 percent pay in-
21 crease for 2007, subject to subsection (e).

22 (d) LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.—Not later than 6 months
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
24 troller General shall, subject to the availability of appro-
25 priations, pay to each individual to whom this section ap-

1 plies a lump-sum payment. Subject to subsection (e), such
2 lump-sum payment shall be equal to—

3 (1) the total amount of basic pay that would
4 have been paid to the individual, for service per-
5 formed during the period beginning on the effective
6 date of the pay increase for 2006 and ending on the
7 day before the effective date of the pay adjustment
8 under subsection (c) (or, if earlier, the date on which
9 the individual retires or otherwise ceases to be em-
10 ployed by the Government Accountability Office), if
11 such individual had received both a 2.6 percent pay
12 increase for 2006 and a 2.4 percent pay increase for
13 2007, minus

14 (2) the total amount of basic pay that was in
15 fact paid to the individual for service performed dur-
16 ing the period described in paragraph (1).

17 Eligibility for a lump-sum payment under this subsection
18 shall be determined solely on the basis of whether an indi-
19 vidual satisfies the requirements of subsection (a) (to be
20 considered an individual to whom this section applies), and
21 without regard to such individual's employment status as
22 of any date following the date of the enactment of this
23 Act or any other factor.

24 (e) CONDITIONS.—Nothing in subsection (c) or (d)
25 shall be considered to permit or require—

1 (1) the payment of any rate (or lump-sum
2 amount based on a rate) for any pay period, to the
3 extent that such rate would be (or would have been)
4 inconsistent with the limitation that applies (or that
5 applied) with respect to such pay period under sec-
6 tion 732(c)(2) of title 31, United States Code; or

7 (2) the payment of any rate or amount based
8 on the pay increase for 2006 or 2007 (as the case
9 may be), if—

10 (A) the performance of the officer or em-
11 ployee involved was not at a satisfactory level,
12 as determined by the Comptroller General
13 under paragraph (3) of section 732(c) of such
14 title 31 for purposes of the adjustment under
15 such paragraph for that year; or

16 (B) the individual involved was not an offi-
17 cer or employee of the Government Account-
18 ability Office on the date as of which that in-
19 crease took effect.

20 As used in paragraph (2)(A), the term “satisfactory” in-
21 cludes a rating of “meets expectations” (within the mean-
22 ing of the performance appraisal system used for purposes
23 of the adjustment under section 732(c)(3) of such title 31
24 for the year involved).

25 (f) RETIREMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The lump-sum payment paid
2 under subsection (d) to an officer or employee shall,
3 for purposes of any determination of the average pay
4 (as defined by section 8331 or 8401 of title 5,
5 United States Code) which is used to compute an
6 annuity under subchapter III of chapter 83 or chap-
7 ter 84 of such title—

8 (A) be treated as basic pay (as defined by
9 section 8331 or 8401 of such title); and

10 (B) be allocated to the biweekly pay peri-
11 ods covered by subsection (d).

12 (2) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwithstanding section
13 8334, 8422, 8423, or any other provision of title 5,
14 United States Code, no employee or agency contribu-
15 tion shall be required for purposes of this subsection.

16 (g) EXCLUSIVE REMEDY.—This section constitutes
17 the exclusive remedy that any individuals to whom this
18 section applies (as described in subsection (a)) have for
19 any claim that they are owed any monies denied to them
20 in the form of a pay increase for 2006 or 2007 under sec-
21 tion 732(c)(3) of title 31, United States Code, or any
22 other law. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
23 court or administrative body, including the Government
24 Accountability Office Personnel Appeals Board, shall have
25 jurisdiction to entertain any civil action or other civil pro-

1 ceeding based on the claim of such individuals that they
2 were due money in the form of a pay increase for 2006
3 or 2007 pursuant to such section 732(c)(3) or any other
4 law.

5 **SEC. 4. LUMP-SUM PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN PERFORMANCE-**
6 **BASED COMPENSATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
9 shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, pay to
10 each qualified individual a lump-sum payment equal to the
11 amount of performance-based compensation such indi-
12 vidual was denied for 2006, as determined under sub-
13 section (b).

14 (b) AMOUNT.—The amount payable to a qualified in-
15 dividual under this section shall be equal to—

16 (1) the total amount of performance-based com-
17 pensation such individual would have earned for
18 2006 (determined by applying the Government Ac-
19 countability Office’s performance-based compensa-
20 tion system under GAO Orders 2540.3 and 2540.4,
21 as in effect in 2006) if such individual had not had
22 a salary equal to or greater than the maximum for
23 such individual’s band (as further described in sub-
24 section (c)(2)), less

1 (2) the total amount of performance-based com-
2 pensation such individual was in fact granted, in
3 January 2006, for that year.

4 (c) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this
5 section, the term “qualified individual” means an indi-
6 vidual who—

7 (1) as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 is an officer or employee of the Government Ac-
9 countability Office, excluding—

10 (A) an individual holding a position subject
11 to section 732a or 733 of title 31, United
12 States Code (disregarding section 732a(b) and
13 733(c) of such title);

14 (B) a Federal Wage System employee; and

15 (C) an individual participating in a devel-
16 opment program under which such individual
17 receives performance appraisals, and is eligible
18 to receive permanent merit pay increases, more
19 than once a year; and

20 (2) as of January 22, 2006, was a Band I staff
21 member with a salary above the Band I cap, a Band
22 IIA staff member with a salary above the Band IIA
23 cap, or an administrative professional or support
24 staff member with a salary above the cap for that

1 individual's pay band (determined in accordance
2 with the orders cited in subsection (b)(1)).

3 (d) **EXCLUSIVE REMEDY.**—This section constitutes
4 the exclusive remedy that any officers and employees (as
5 described in subsection (c)) have for any claim that they
6 are owed any monies denied to them in the form of merit
7 pay for 2006 under section 731(b) of title 31, United
8 States Code, or any other law. Notwithstanding any other
9 provision of law, no court or administrative body in the
10 United States, including the Government Accountability
11 Office Personnel Appeals Board, shall have jurisdiction to
12 entertain any civil action or other civil proceeding based
13 on the claim of such officers or employees that they were
14 due money in the form of merit pay for 2006 pursuant
15 to such section 731(b) or any other law.

16 (e) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section—

17 (1) the term “performance-based compensa-
18 tion” has the meaning given such term under the
19 Government Accountability Office’s performance-
20 based compensation system under GAO Orders
21 2540.3 and 2540.4, as in effect in 2006; and

22 (2) the term “permanent merit pay increase”
23 means an increase under section 731(b) of title 31,
24 United States Code, in a rate of basic pay.

1 **SEC. 5. INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 **“§ 705. Inspector General for the Government Ac-**
5 **countability Office**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is estab-
7 lished an Office of the Inspector General in the Govern-
8 ment Accountability Office, to—

9 “(1) conduct and supervise audits consistent
10 with generally accepted government auditing stand-
11 ards and investigations relating to the Government
12 Accountability Office;

13 “(2) provide leadership and coordination and
14 recommend policies, to promote economy, efficiency,
15 and effectiveness in the Government Accountability
16 Office; and

17 “(3) keep the Comptroller General and Con-
18 gress fully and currently informed concerning fraud
19 and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies
20 relating to the administration of programs and oper-
21 ations of the Government Accountability Office.

22 “(b) APPOINTMENT, SUPERVISION, AND REMOVAL.—

23 “(1) The Office of the Inspector General shall
24 be headed by an Inspector General, who shall be ap-
25 pointed by the Comptroller General without regard
26 to political affiliation and solely on the basis of in-

1 integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, au-
2 diting, financial analysis, law, management analysis,
3 public administration, or investigations. The Inspec-
4 tor General shall report to, and be under the general
5 supervision of, the Comptroller General.

6 “(2) The Inspector General may be removed
7 from office by the Comptroller General. The Comp-
8 troller General shall, promptly upon such removal,
9 communicate in writing the reasons for any such re-
10 moval to each House of Congress.

11 “(3) The Inspector General shall be paid at an
12 annual rate of pay equal to \$5,000 less than the an-
13 nual rate of pay of the Comptroller General, and
14 may not receive any cash award or bonus, including
15 any award under chapter 45 of title 5.

16 “(c) AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—In addi-
17 tion to the authority otherwise provided by this section,
18 the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of
19 this section, may—

20 “(1) have access to all records, reports, audits,
21 reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or
22 other material that relate to programs and oper-
23 ations of the Government Accountability Office;

24 “(2) make such investigations and reports relat-
25 ing to the administration of the programs and oper-

1 ations of the Government Accountability Office as
2 are, in the judgment of the Inspector General, nec-
3 essary or desirable;

4 “(3) request such documents and information
5 as may be necessary for carrying out the duties and
6 responsibilities provided by this section from any
7 Federal agency;

8 “(4) in the performance of the functions as-
9 signed by this section, obtain all information, docu-
10 ments, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers,
11 and other data and documentary evidence from a
12 person not in the United States Government or from
13 a Federal agency, to the same extent and in the
14 same manner as the Comptroller General under the
15 authority and procedures available to the Comp-
16 troller General in section 716 of this title;

17 “(5) administer to or take from any person an
18 oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever necessary in
19 the performance of the functions assigned by this
20 section, which oath, affirmation, or affidavit when
21 administered or taken by or before an employee of
22 the Office of Inspector General designated by the In-
23 spector General shall have the same force and effect
24 as if administered or taken by or before an officer
25 having a seal;

1 “(6) have direct and prompt access to the
2 Comptroller General when necessary for any purpose
3 pertaining to the performance of functions and re-
4 sponsibilities under this section;

5 “(7) report expeditiously to the Attorney Gen-
6 eral whenever the Inspector General has reasonable
7 grounds to believe there has been a violation of Fed-
8 eral criminal law; and

9 “(8) provide copies of all reports to the Audit
10 Advisory Committee of the Government Account-
11 ability Office and provide such additional informa-
12 tion in connection with such reports as is requested
13 by the Committee.

14 “(d) COMPLAINTS BY EMPLOYEES.—

15 “(1) The Inspector General—

16 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), may re-
17 ceive, review, and investigate, as the Inspector
18 General considers appropriate, complaints or in-
19 formation from an employee of the Government
20 Accountability Office concerning the possible
21 existence of an activity constituting a violation
22 of any law, rule, or regulation, mismanagement,
23 or a gross waste of funds; and

24 “(B) shall refer complaints or information
25 concerning violations of personnel law, rules, or

1 regulations to established investigative and ad-
2 judicative entities of the Government Account-
3 ability Office.

4 “(2) The Inspector General shall not, after re-
5 ceipt of a complaint or information from an em-
6 ployee, disclose the identity of the employee without
7 the consent of the employee, unless the Inspector
8 General determines such disclosure is unavoidable
9 during the course of the investigation.

10 “(3) Any employee who has authority to take,
11 direct others to take, recommend, or approve any
12 personnel action, shall not, with respect to such au-
13 thority, take or threaten to take any action against
14 any employee as a reprisal for making a complaint
15 or disclosing information to the Inspector General,
16 unless the complaint was made or the information
17 disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or
18 with willful disregard for its truth or falsity.

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

24 “(A) a summary of each significant report
25 made during the reporting period, including a de-

1 description of significant problems, abuses, and defi-
2 ciencies disclosed by such report;

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

7 “(C) a summary of the progress made in imple-
8 menting such corrective action described pursuant to
9 subparagraph (B); and

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

13 “(2) The Comptroller General shall transmit the
14 semiannual reports of the Inspector General, together with
15 any comments the Comptroller General considers appro-
16 priate, to Congress within 30 days after receipt of such
17 reports.

18 “(f) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES AND
19 RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Comptroller General may not
20 prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from carrying
21 out any of the duties or responsibilities of the Inspector
22 General under this section.

23 “(g) AUTHORITY FOR STAFF.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General
25 shall select, appoint, and employ such personnel as

1 may be necessary to carry out this section consistent
2 with the provisions of this title governing selections,
3 appointments, and employment in the Government
4 Accountability Office. Such personnel shall be ap-
5 pointed, promoted, and assigned only on the basis of
6 merit and fitness, but without regard to those provi-
7 sions of title 5 governing appointments and other
8 personnel actions in the competitive service, except
9 that no personnel of the Office may be paid at an
10 annual rate greater than \$1,000 less than the an-
11 nual rate of pay of the Inspector General.

12 “(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The In-
13 spector General may procure temporary and inter-
14 mittent services under section 3109 of title 5 at
15 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
16 rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Sched-
17 ule under section 5315 of such title.

18 “(3) INDEPENDENCE IN APPOINTING STAFF.—
19 No individual may carry out any of the duties or re-
20 sponsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General
21 unless the individual is appointed by the Inspector
22 General, or provides services obtained by the Inspec-
23 tor General, pursuant to this paragraph.

24 “(4) LIMITATION ON PROGRAM RESPONSIBIL-
25 ITIES.—The Inspector General and any individual

1 carrying out any of the duties or responsibilities of
2 the Office of the Inspector General are prohibited
3 from performing any program responsibilities.

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

6 “(1) appropriate and adequate office space;

7 “(2) such equipment, office supplies, and com-
8 munications facilities and services as may be nec-
9 essary for the operation of the Office of the Inspec-
10 tor General;

11 “(3) necessary maintenance services for such
12 office space, equipment, office supplies, and commu-
13 nications facilities; and

14 “(4) equipment and facilities located in such of-
15 fice space.

16 “(i) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
17 ‘Federal agency’ means a department, agency, instrumen-
18 tality, or unit thereof, of the Federal Government.”.

19 (b) INCUMBENT.—The individual who serves in the
20 position of Inspector General of the Government Account-
21 ability Office on the date of the enactment of this Act shall
22 continue to serve in such position subject to removal in
23 accordance with the amendments made by this section.

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for chapter 7 is amended by inserting after the item relat-
3 ing to section 704 the following:

“705. Inspector General for the Government Accountability Office.”.

4 **SEC. 6. REIMBURSEMENT OF AUDIT COSTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3521 is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

7 “(i)(1) If the Government Accountability Office au-
8 dits any financial statement or related schedule which is
9 prepared under section 3515 by an executive agency (or
10 component thereof) for a fiscal year beginning on or after
11 October 1, 2009, such executive agency (or component)
12 shall reimburse the Government Accountability Office for
13 the cost of such audit if—

14 “(A) the statement or schedule audited is that
15 of an executive agency (or component) which sub-
16 mitted a financial statement or related schedule
17 under section 3515 for fiscal year 2007 which was
18 audited by the Government Accountability Office; or

19 “(B) the reason for the audit (described in the
20 matter before subparagraph (A)) is because of the
21 Comptroller General’s determination of materiality
22 to the statements required under section 331(e).

23 “(2) Any executive agency (or component thereof)
24 that prepares a financial statement under section 3515 for
25 a fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2009, and

1 that requests the Government Accountability Office to
2 audit such statement or any related schedule may reim-
3 burse the Government Accountability Office for the cost
4 of such audit.

5 “(3) Any reimbursement under paragraph (1) or (2)
6 shall be deposited to a special account in the Treasury
7 and shall be available to the Government Accountability
8 Office for such purposes and in such amounts as are speci-
9 fied in annual appropriations Acts.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1401 of
11 title I of Public Law 108–83 (31 U.S.C. 3523 note) is
12 repealed, effective October 1, 2010.

13 **SEC. 7. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**

14 Section 109(13)(B) of the Ethics in Government Act
15 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

16 (1) in clause (i), by inserting “(except any offi-
17 cer or employee of the Government Accountability
18 Office)” after “legislative branch”, and by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
21 and

22 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

23 “(ii) each officer or employee of the Gov-
24 ernment Accountability Office who, for at least
25 60 consecutive days, occupies a position for

1 which the rate of basic pay, minus the amount
2 of locality pay that would have been authorized
3 under section 5304 of title 5, United States
4 Code (had the officer or employee been paid
5 under the General Schedule) for the locality
6 within which the position of such officer or em-
7 ployee is located (as determined by the Comp-
8 troller General), is equal to or greater than 120
9 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay pay-
10 able for GS-15 of the General Schedule; and”.

11 **SEC. 8. HIGHEST BASIC PAY RATE.**

12 Section 732(c)(2) is amended by striking “highest
13 basic rate for GS-15;” and inserting “rate for level III
14 of the Executive Level, except that the total amount of
15 cash compensation in any year shall be subject to the limi-
16 tations provided under section 5307(a)(1) of title 5;”.

17 **SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 731 is amended—

19 (1) by repealing subsection (d);

20 (2) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) in the matter before paragraph (1), by
22 striking “maximum daily rate for GS-18 under
23 section 5332 of such title” and inserting “daily
24 rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule”;
25 and

1 (B) by striking “more than—” and all that
2 follows and inserting the following: “more than
3 20 experts and consultants may be procured for
4 terms of not more than 3 years, but which shall
5 be renewable.”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(j) Funds appropriated to the Government Account-
8 ability Office for salaries and expenses are available for
9 meals and other related reasonable expenses incurred in
10 connection with recruitment.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section
12 732a(b) is amended by striking “section 731(d), (e)(1),
13 or (e)(2)” and inserting “paragraph (1) or (2) of section
14 731(e)”.

15 (2) Section 733(c) is amended by striking “(d),”.

16 (3) Section 735(a) is amended by striking “731(c)–
17 (e),” and inserting “731(c) and (e),”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 9, 2008.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.