

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 72

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 5, 2017

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

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

14 “(b) The specific reference to a statute in subsection  
15 (a) shall not be construed to affect access by the Govern-  
16 ment Accountability Office to information under statutes  
17 that are not so referenced.”.

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

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

22 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
23 following:

24 “(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
25 Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee  
26 on Oversight and Government Reform of the House

1 of Representatives, the congressional committees  
2 with jurisdiction over the agency program or activity  
3 that is the subject of the recommendation, and the  
4 Government Accountability Office before the 61st  
5 day after the date of the report; and”.

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

9 (1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(2)”; and  
10 (2) by inserting after the section heading the  
11 following:

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

21 (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
22 The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 31, United

1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
2 ing to section 720 the following:

“721. Access to certain information.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 4,  
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*