

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 5300  
OFFERED BY MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “GAO Inspector Gen-  
3 eral Parity Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE GOV-  
5 ERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.**

6       Section 705 of title 31, United States Code, is  
7 amended—

8           (1) in subsection (b)—

9               (A) in paragraph (2)—

10                   (i) by inserting “(A)” before “The In-  
11 spector General”;

12                   (ii) in subparagraph (A), as so des-  
13 ignated, by striking the second sentence;

14                   and

15                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
16 lowing:

17                   “(B) If the Inspector General is removed from  
18 office or is transferred to another position or loca-

1       tion within the Government Accountability Office,  
2       the Comptroller General shall communicate in writ-  
3       ing the substantive rationale, including detailed and  
4       case-specific reasons, for any such removal or trans-  
5       fer to both Houses of Congress (including to the ap-  
6       propriate congressional committees), not later than  
7       30 days before the removal or transfer.

8               “(C) If there is an open or completed inquiry  
9       into the Inspector General that relates to the re-  
10      moval or transfer of the Inspector General under  
11      subparagraph (A), the written communication re-  
12      quired under subparagraph (B) shall—

13                   “(i) identify each entity that is conducting,  
14                   or that conducted, the inquiry; and

15                   “(ii) in the case of a completed inquiry,  
16                   contain the findings made during the inquiry.

17               “(D) Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a  
18      personnel action otherwise authorized by law, other  
19      than transfer or removal.”;

20                   (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
21                   paragraph (4); and

22                   (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
23                   following:

1           “(3)(A) Subject to the other provisions of this  
2 paragraph, only the Comptroller General may place  
3 the Inspector General on non-duty status.

4           “(B) If the Comptroller General places the In-  
5 spector General on non-duty status, the Comptroller  
6 General shall communicate in writing the sub-  
7 stantive rationale, including detailed and case-spe-  
8 cific reasons, for the change in status to both  
9 Houses of Congress (including to the appropriate  
10 congressional committees) not later than 15 days be-  
11 fore the date on which the change in status takes ef-  
12 fect, except that the Comptroller General may sub-  
13 mit that communication not later than the date on  
14 which the change in status takes effect if—

15           “(i) the Comptroller General has made a  
16 determination that the continued presence of  
17 the Inspector General in the workplace poses a  
18 specific threat; and

19           “(ii) in the communication, the Comp-  
20 troller General includes a report on the deter-  
21 mination described in clause (i), which shall in-  
22 clude—

23           “(I) the substantive rationale, includ-  
24 ing detailed and case-specific reasons, for  
25 the determination made under clause (i);

1                   “(II) an identification of each entity  
2                   that is conducting, or that conducted, any  
3                   inquiry upon which the determination  
4                   under clause (i) was made; and

5                   “(III) in the case of an inquiry de-  
6                   scribed in subclause (II) that is completed,  
7                   the findings made during that inquiry.

8                   “(C) The Comptroller General may not place  
9                   the Inspector General on non-duty status during the  
10                  30-day period preceding the date on which the In-  
11                  spector General is removed or transferred under  
12                  paragraph (2)(A) unless the Comptroller General—

13                  “(i) has made a determination that the  
14                  continued presence of the Inspector General in  
15                  the workplace poses a specific threat; and

16                  “(ii) not later than the date on which the  
17                  change in status takes effect, submits to both  
18                  Houses of Congress (including to the appro-  
19                  priate congressional committees) a written com-  
20                  munication that contains the information re-  
21                  quired under subparagraph (B), including the  
22                  report required under clause (ii) of that sub-  
23                  paragraph.

24                  “(D) Nothing in this paragraph may be con-  
25                  strued to limit or otherwise modify any statutory

1 protection that is afforded to the Inspector General  
2 or a personnel action that is otherwise authorized by  
3 law.”;

4 (2) in subsection (f)—

5 (A) by striking “The Comptroller General”  
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(1) PROHIBITION.—The Comptroller General”;

8 and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) BUDGET INDEPENDENCE.—The Comp-  
11 troller General shall include the annual budget re-  
12 quest of the Inspector General in the budget of the  
13 Government Accountability Office without change.”;

14 and

15 (3) in subsection (g)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), in the second sen-  
17 tence, by striking “, except that no personnel of  
18 the Office may be paid at an annual rate great-  
19 er than \$1,000 less than the annual rate of pay  
20 of the Inspector General”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(5) LEGAL ADVICE.—The Inspector General  
23 shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regula-  
24 tions governing selections, appointments, and em-  
25 ployment at the Government Accountability Office,

1 obtain legal advice from a counsel reporting directly  
2 to the Inspector General or another Inspector Gen-  
3 eral.”.

