

Union Calendar No.

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5690

[Report No. 114-]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

SEPTEMBER --, 2016

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

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 2016”.

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:

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

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

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

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

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

24 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
25 following:

1 “(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and
2 Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee
3 on Oversight and Government Reform of the House
4 of Representatives, the congressional committees
5 with jurisdiction over the agency program or activity
6 that is the subject of the recommendation, and the
7 Government Accountability Office before the 61st
8 day after the date of the report; and”.

9 (c) **AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.**—Section 716
10 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection
11 (a)—

12 (1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(2)”; and
13 (2) by inserting after the section heading the
14 following:

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

24 (d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—
25 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.”.