

HR 5683

Government Accountability Office Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Congress

Introduced: Apr 2, 2008

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 110-323.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 110-323. (Sep 22, 2008)

Law: 110-323 (Enacted Sep 22, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/5683>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]

Party: Democratic • State: IL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Apr 2, 2008
Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Apr 2, 2008
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Apr 22, 2008
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Apr 22, 2008
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Apr 22, 2008
Rep. Jones, Stephanie Tubbs [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Apr 22, 2008
Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Apr 22, 2008
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 26, 2008
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 3, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Congress

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 3268	Related bill	Mar 13, 2008: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
110 S 2564	Related bill	Jan 29, 2008: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on August 1, 2008. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Government Accountability Office Act of 2008 - (Sec. 2) Requires: (1) the Comptroller General to provide for a pay increase to covered Government Accountability Office (GAO) officers and employees if the increase that would otherwise take effect would be less than the required minimum percentage (equal to the total annual pay adjustment for General Schedule positions within a pay locality); and (2) nonpermanent merit pay to a such an officer or employee to be decreased by an amount equal to the portion of such person's basic pay that is attributable to the increase provided by this Act.

Defines a "covered officer or employee" to mean a Government Accountability Office (GAO) officer or employee whose performance is at least at a satisfactory level and who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service, a Federal Wage System employee, or an employee who is in GAO's entry-level developmental programs.

(Sec. 3) Requires the Comptroller General, within six months, to pay to a GAO employee who did not receive a permanent base pay increase in 2006 and 2007 a lump sum payment. Requires the lump sum payment to be: (1) applied prospectively; and (2) treated as basic pay for purposes of any determination of the average pay.

Requires the GAO to deduct and withhold from such lump-sum payments employee contributions to, and to pay the applicable agency contribution to, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

Provides for an exclusive remedy for individuals with claims that they are owed any money denied to them in the form of pay increases for 2006 or 2007.

(Sec. 4) Requires the Comptroller General to pay each qualified individual a lump-sum payment equal to the amount of performance-based compensation such individual was denied for 2006. Defines "qualified individual" to mean an individual who is: (1) a GAO officer or employee, excluding members of the Senior Executive Service, Federal Wage System employees, and employees in GAO's entry-level developmental programs; and (2) a Band I staff member with a salary above the Band I cap, a Band IIA staff member with a salary above the Band IIA cap, or an administrative professional or support staff member with a salary above the cap for that individual's pay band.

(Sec. 5) Establishes an Office of the Inspector General in GAO to: (1) conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to GAO; (2) provide leadership and coordination and recommend policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in GAO; and (3) keep the Comptroller General and Congress informed concerning fraud and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies relating to the administration of GAO programs and operations.

Authorizes the Inspector General to receive and investigate complaints or information from GAO employees concerning the possible existence of an activity constituting a violation of law, mismanagement, or a gross waste of funds. Requires the Inspector General to refer complaints or information concerning violations of personnel law to established investigative and adjudicative GAO entities.

Prohibits the Inspector General from disclosing the identity of an employee who submitted a complaint or information without the employee's consent, unless such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of the investigation.

Prohibits employees who have authority for personnel actions from taking or threatening action against employees as a

reprisal for making a complaint or disclosing information, unless the complaint or disclosure was made with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity.

Requires the Inspector General to report semiannually to the Comptroller General on the Office's activities. Requires the Comptroller General's annual report to Congress to assess the overall degree of federal agency cooperation with GAO audits.

Prohibits the Comptroller General from preventing the Inspector General from carrying out any his or her responsibilities under this Act.

(Sec. 6) Requires any executive agency that prepares an audited financial statement to reimburse GAO for the cost of any GAO audit of such statement if GAO audited the statement or schedule of such agency for fiscal year 2007. Requires the GAO to consult with the relevant executive agency and the Inspector General of such agency prior to the initiation of the audit on the scope, terms, and cost of such audit.

(Sec. 7) Amends the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to revise the coverage of certain GAO officers and employees under its financial disclosure requirements.

(Sec. 8) Revises the highest basic pay rate for GAO personnel from GS-15 to Executive Level III.

Increases from 15 to 20 the number of experts and consultants whose services the Comptroller General may procure for renewable three-year terms at rates up to level IV of the Executive Schedule.

Makes funds appropriated to GAO for salaries and expenses also available for recruitment-related meals and entertainment.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 22, 2008:** Signed by President.
- **Sep 22, 2008:** Became Public Law No: 110-323.
- **Sep 11, 2008:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 9, 2008:** Mr. Davis (IL) moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H7881-7884)
- **Sep 9, 2008:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 5683.
- **Sep 9, 2008:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote.(text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H7881-7883)
- **Sep 9, 2008:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote. (text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H7881-7883)
- **Sep 9, 2008:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 9, 2008:** Cleared for White House.
- **Aug 1, 2008:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S8070-8073; text of measure as reported in Senate: CR S8071-8073)
- **Aug 1, 2008:** The committee amendments were withdrawn by Unanimous Consent.
- **Aug 1, 2008:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Aug 1, 2008:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Aug 1, 2008:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 26, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman with amendments. Without written report.
- **Jul 26, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 901.
- **Jun 25, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **Jun 10, 2008:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Jun 9, 2008:** Mr. Davis (IL) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 9, 2008:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5080-5084)
- **Jun 9, 2008:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 5683.
- **Jun 9, 2008:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5080-5082)
- **Jun 9, 2008:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5080-5082)
- **Jun 9, 2008:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 22, 2008:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government. H. Rept. 110-671.
- **May 22, 2008:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 422.
- **May 1, 2008:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 1, 2008:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 3, 2008:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 3, 2008:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 2, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 2, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E477)
- **Apr 2, 2008:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
- **Apr 2, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia.