

HR 6388

Government Accountability Office Improvement Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Congress

Introduced: Jun 26, 2008

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governm

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Jul 30, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6388>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-30]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (18 total)

| Cosponsor                                 | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Berman, Howard L. [D-CA-28]          | D · CA        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]            | D · PA        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]         | D · MI        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Dingell, John D. [D-MI-15]           | D · MI        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]                | D · CA        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4]               | D · MA        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Gordon, Bart [D-TN-6]                | D · TN        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Miller, George [D-CA-7]              | D · CA        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Oberstar, James L. [D-MN-8]          | D · MN        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Obey, David R. [D-WI-7]              | D · WI        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]         | D · WV        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-15]         | D · NY        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Reyes, Silvestre [D-TX-16]           | D · TX        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Skelton, Ike [D-MO-4]                | D · MO        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-28] | D · NY        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Spratt, John M., Jr. [D-SC-5]        | D · SC        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]         | D · MS        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |
| Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-12]        | D · NY        |      | Jun 26, 2008 |

Committee Activity

| Committee  | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Jul 30, 2008 |
| Oversight and Government Reform Committee            | House   | Reported By | Jul 24, 2008 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Congress

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Jul 29, 2008)

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Government Accountability Office Improvement Act of 2008 - Authorizes the Comptroller General to: (1) obtain federal agency records required to discharge his or her duties, including through bringing civil actions under this Act; (2) interview agency officers and employees to get information about agency duties, powers, activities, organization, and financial transactions; and (3) administer oaths to witnesses (currently, the Comptroller General may administer oaths to witnesses when auditing and settling accounts).

Requires the Comptroller General to prescribe such policies and procedures as are necessary to protect from public disclosure proprietary or trade secret information obtained under this Act.

Declares that no provision of the Social Security Act, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority of the Comptroller General to obtain information, inspect records, or interview specified agency officers or employees, including with respect to: (1) information disclosed to or obtained by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the Social Security Act; (2) information concerning any method or process protected as a trade secret; and (3) information disclosed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for purposes of pre-merger review under the Clayton Act. Declares that this Act shall not be construed to: (1) alter or amend the prohibitions against the disclosure of trade secret or other sensitive information; and (2) affect the applicability of requirements governing the availability of agency information to information obtained.

Requires the Comptroller General to: (1) report annually on the cooperation of agencies subject to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and other agencies designated by the Comptroller General in making personnel available for interviews, providing written answers to questions, submitting to an oath authorized by the Comptroller General, granting access to records, providing timely comments to draft reports, adopting report recommendations, and responding to such matters as the Comptroller General deems appropriate; and (2) report to Congress when agencies do not respond to requests regarding such matters.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 30, 2008:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Mr. Waxman moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7192-7194)
- **Jul 29, 2008:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 6388.
- **Jul 29, 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 H7192-7193)
- **Jul 29, 2008:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7192-7193)
- **Jul 29, 2008:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 24, 2008:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government. H. Rept. 110-771.
- **Jul 24, 2008:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 490.
- **Jul 16, 2008:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 16, 2008:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Jun 26, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 26, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1382)
- **Jun 26, 2008:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.