

HOUSE VOTES TO LET G.A.O. AUDIT I.R.S.

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (AP)

The House passed today and sent to the Senate a bill that would permit the General Accounting Office to audit the Internal Revenue Service.

The revenue service has contended that statutes protecting the privacy of tax records prohibit it from making any documents on its administration of the revenue laws available to G.A.O., which is the Congressional fiscal watchdog agency.

The G.A.O. has offered differing interpretations and contended that denial of internal revenue records made it impossible for it to study and report to Congress on the efficiency of I.R.S. operations, as it does on other agencies.

The bill would provide access by the G.A.O. to records of the I.R.S. and the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms with the provision that G.A.O. not disclose such information in a form that could directly or indirectly identify a taxpayer.