To require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2013”.

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SEC. 2. AUDIT REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 714 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, an audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks under subsection (b) of such section 714 shall be completed within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) Report.—

(1) In general.—A report on the audit required under subsection (a) shall be submitted by the Comptroller General to the Congress before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such audit is completed and made available to the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee and each subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and any other Member of Congress who requests the report.

(2) Contents.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of the findings and conclusion of the Comptroller General with respect to the audit that is the subject of the report,
together with such recommendations for legislative
or administrative action as the Comptroller General
may determine to be appropriate.

(c) Repeal of Certain Limitations.—Subsection
(b) of section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is
amended by striking all after “in writing.”.

(d) Technical and Conforming Amendment.—
Section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended
by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 3. Audit of Loan File Reviews Required by En-
forcement Actions.

(a) In General.—The Comptroller General of the
United States shall conduct an audit of the review of loan
files of homeowners in foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, re-
quired as part of the enforcement actions taken by the
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
against supervised financial institutions.

(b) Content of Audit.—The audit carried out pur-
suant to subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the guidance given by the Board of Gov-
ernors of the Federal Reserve System to inde-
pendent consultants retained by the supervised fi-
nancial institutions regarding the procedures to be
followed in conducting the file reviews;
(2) the factors considered by independent consultants when evaluating loan files;

(3) the results obtained by the independent consultants pursuant to those reviews;

(4) the determinations made by the independent consultants regarding the nature and extent of financial injury sustained by each homeowner as well as the level and type of remediation offered to each homeowner; and

(5) the specific measures taken by the independent consultants to verify, confirm, or rebut the assertions and representations made by supervised financial institutions regarding the contents of loan files and the extent of financial injury to homeowners.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the audit required under subsection (a).