

section (a) of this section. The report shall include the Comptroller General's findings, together with any recommendations that the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 107-173, title VI, §602, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 564.)

#### CHANGE OF NAME

General Accounting Office redesignated Government Accountability Office by section 8 of Pub. L. 108-271, set out as a note under section 702 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

#### ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

### § 1772. International cooperation

#### (a) International electronic data system

The Secretary of State and the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, shall jointly conduct a study of the alternative approaches (including the costs of, and procedures necessary for, each alternative approach) for encouraging or requiring Canada, Mexico, and countries treated as visa waiver program countries under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1187] to develop an intergovernmental network of interoperable electronic data systems that—

(1) facilitates real-time access to that country's law enforcement and intelligence information that is needed by the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to screen visa applicants and applicants for admission into the United States to identify aliens who are inadmissible or deportable under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.);

(2) is interoperable with the electronic data system implemented under section 1722 of this title; and

(3) performs in accordance with implementation of the technology standard referred to in section 1722(a) of this title.

#### (b) Report

Not later than 1 year after May 14, 2002, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 107-173, title VI, §603, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 564.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Immigration and Nationality Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, 66 Stat. 163, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 12 (§1101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1101 of this title and Tables.

#### ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related

references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

### § 1773. Statutory construction

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to impose requirements that are inconsistent with the North American Free Trade Agreement or to require additional documents for aliens for whom documentary requirements are waived under section 1182(d)(4)(B) of this title.

(Pub. L. 107-173, title VI, §604, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 565.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 107-173, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 543, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of this title and Tables.

### § 1774. Annual report on aliens who fail to appear after release on own recognizance

#### (a) Requirement for report

Not later than January 15 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the total number of aliens who, during the preceding year, failed to attend a removal proceeding after having been arrested outside a port of entry, served a notice to appear under section 1229(a)(1) of this title, and released on the alien's own recognizance. The report shall also take into account the number of cases in which there were defects in notices of hearing or the service of notices of hearing, together with a description and analysis of the effects, if any, that the defects had on the attendance of aliens at the proceedings.

#### (b) Initial report

Notwithstanding the time for submission of the annual report provided in subsection (a) of this section, the report for 2001 shall be submitted not later than 6 months after May 14, 2002.

(Pub. L. 107-173, title VI, §605, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 565.)

#### ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

### § 1775. Retention of nonimmigrant visa applications by the Department of State

The Department of State shall retain, for a period of seven years from the date of application, every application for a nonimmigrant visa under section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) in a form that will be admissible in the courts of the United States or in administrative proceedings, including removal proceedings under such Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.], without regard to whether the application was approved or denied.

(Pub. L. 107-173, title VI, §606, May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 565.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Immigration and Nationality Act, referred to in text, is act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, 66 Stat. 163, as amend-