

**AMENDMENT TO THE MANAGER'S AMENDMENT TO
H.R. 6308**

OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM OF ILLINOIS

GAO study

After section 101 of the Amendment, insert the following new section (and redesignate the succeeding section accordingly):

1 **SEC. 102. GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF**
2 **CREDIT RATINGS.**

3 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General
4 shall conduct a study of the treatment of different classes
5 of bonds (municipal versus corporate) by the nationally
6 recognized statistical rating organizations. Such study
7 shall examine—

8 (1) whether there are fundamental differences
9 in the treatment of different classes of bonds by
10 such rating organizations that cause some classes of
11 bonds to suffer from undue discrimination;

12 (2) if there are such differences, what are the
13 causes of such differences and how can they be alle-
14 viated;

15 (3) whether there are factors other than risk of
16 loss that are appropriate for the credit ratings agen-

1 cies to consider when rating bonds, and do those fac-
2 tors vary across different sectors;

3 (4) the types of financing arrangement used by
4 municipal issuers;

5 (5) the differing legal and regulatory regimes
6 governing disclosures for corporate bonds and mu-
7 nicipal bonds;

8 (6) the extent to which retail investors could be
9 disadvantaged by a single ratings scale; and

10 (7) practices, policies, and methodologies by the
11 nationally recognized statistical rating organizations
12 with respect to rating municipal bonds.

13 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Within 6 months after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
15 shall submit a report on the results of the study required
16 by subsection (a) to the Committee on Financial Services
17 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
18 Banking, Housing, and Urban Development of the Senate.
19 Such report shall include as assessment of each of the
20 issues and subjects described in paragraphs (1) through
21 (7) of subsection (a).

