

October 22, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 1794--Disbursing officers, certifying officers, and employees of the Government Printing Office--which amends the law relating to the disbursing officer, the deputy disbursing officer, certifying officers, and employees of GPO to bring their responsibilities into line with those of the officers and employees of the Executive Branch and the Library of Congress.

This bill will place GPO officers in a position similar to other officers. Specifically, the bill will provide for:

- relief of the GPO disbursing officer from responsibility where he relied on false, inaccurate or misleading certificates of certifying officers.
- the Comptroller General to relieve certifying officers under certain specified circumstances including among others where in certain circumstances they did not know or could not reasonably have found out the facts.
- relief of the disbursing officer from being the sole accountable officer
- specific obligations of certifying officers and enforcement of liability against certifying officers
- the right of certifying officers to apply to the GAO for advance decisions on questions of law relating to vouchers before them for payment
- bringing GPO into conformity with the Executive agencies

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