

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 6956**  
**OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Barcode Automation  
3 for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and En-  
4 hance Efficiency Act” or the “BARCODE Efficiency  
5 Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. SCANNING AND DIGITIZATION OF TAX RETURNS**  
**7 AND CORRESPONDENCE.**

8 (a) RETURNS PREPARED ELECTRONICALLY AND  
9 SUBMITTED ON PAPER.—With respect to any Federal tax  
10 return which is prepared electronically, but is printed and  
11 filed on paper—

12 (1) such return shall bear a code which, when  
13 scanned, converts the data included in such return  
14 to electronic format, and

15 (2) subject to subsection (b)(1)(B), the Internal  
16 Revenue Service shall use barcode scanning tech-  
17 nology to convert the data included in such return  
18 to electronic format.

1           (b) OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SOFTWARE  
2 WARE.—With respect to—

3           (1) any Federal tax return which—  
4               (A) is not prepared electronically and is  
5               printed and filed on paper, or  
6               (B) is described in subsection (a)(1) but,  
7               for any reason, the data included in such return  
8               cannot be accurately converted into electronic  
9               format, or  
10           (2) any correspondence which is received by the  
11           Internal Revenue Service in a paper form (with the  
12           exception of any such correspondence which has  
13           been received by the Internal Revenue Service in  
14           electronic format),  
15           the Internal Revenue Service shall use optical character  
16           recognition technology (or any functionally similar tech-  
17           nology) to transcribe such return or correspondence.

18           (c) EXCEPTION.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) or (b) shall  
20           not apply to the extent that the Secretary of the  
21           Treasury or the Secretary's delegate determines that  
22           the technology described in such subsection is slower  
23           or less reliable than—

1 (A) the process of manually transcribing  
2 returns or correspondence received in a paper  
3 form, or

4 (B) any other process that the Internal  
5 Revenue Service is using or would otherwise  
6 use.

15 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to—

16 (1) any individual income tax return (as defined  
17 in section 6011(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue  
18 Code of 1986) received on or after January 1 of the  
19 first calendar year beginning more than 180 days  
20 after the date of enactment of this Act.

1       more than 24 months after the date of enactment of  
2       this Act, and

3           (3) any other return or correspondence received  
4       on or after January 1 of the first calendar year be-  
5       ginning more than 12 months after the date of en-  
6       actment of this Act.

