



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 2, 2012

### **H.R. 3609**

### **Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
on April 26, 2012*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 3609 would require government agencies to identify and describe each program they administer, the cost to administer the program, expenditures for services, the number of program beneficiaries, and the number of federal employees and contract staff involved. Under the bill, that information would be posted on each agency's Web site. In addition, H.R. 3609 would require an annual report by the Office of Management and Budget that identifies duplicative federal programs.

Based on information from several agencies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3609 would cost around \$100 million over the 2013-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates, however, that any net increase in spending by those agencies would be negligible. Enacting H.R. 3609 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 3609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3609 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within all budget functions that include spending on administrative activities.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2013- 2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	30	30	20	10	10	100
Estimated Outlays	30	30	20	10	10	100

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2012, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for salaries and expenses related to modifying federal reporting systems.

Under current law, agencies regularly produce various types of management information on their programs, budgets, strategic plans, and annual performance reports. A recent amendment to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) will require agencies to describe every program they administer. Consequently, CBO expects that some of the requirements of H.R. 3609 would codify or only slightly modify current agency-reporting requirements.

However, the legislation would add significant new reporting requirements for agencies, including reports on the total administrative costs and the total costs of contract services for each federal program. Currently, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) lists more than 2,200 programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the public. H.R. 3609 would apply to the CFDA list of programs as well as any government service, process, grant, contract, cooperative expense, compact, loan, lease, or agency guidance. Based on information from the Office of Management and Budget and selected agencies about the costs to implement reporting requirements in the Government Performance and Results Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, CBO estimates that assembling that information at this level of detail would cost around \$100 million over the 2013-2017 period.

## **PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS**

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. Enacting H.R. 3609 could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through the appropriation process,

but CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant in any year. Enacting H.R. 3609 would not affect revenues.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 3609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any costs to state and local governments would result from complying with conditions of assistance.

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