



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 12, 2018

H.R. 5192 **Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 11, 2018

The Social Security Administration (SSA) operates the Consent Based Social Security Number Verification (CBSV) service, a fee-based program that allows financial institutions to verify that their records of a person's name, date of birth, and Social Security Number match SSA's data. SSA tells institutions only whether the data does or does not match; no other detail is provided. The fees are classified as offsetting collections that are credited against SSA's discretionary appropriations.

H.R. 5192 would change the CBSV program by allowing people to electronically verify their consent to allow SSA to provide this information, rather than with a physical signature. CBO expects that change would expand the number of verification requests submitted to SSA.

Under H.R. 5192, SSA would set fees to equal the total administrative costs of the program. SSA would incur the direct costs of administering the service and the indirect costs in some cases of resolving errors that are discovered. CBO projects that fees would, on average, fully offset SSA's administrative costs. However, in any given fiscal year, the total amount of fees collected probably would differ slightly from actual costs.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would result in net costs or savings of less than \$500,000 in each year; the total effect would be negligible over the 2019-2028 period.

Enacting H.R. 5192 would not affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5192 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 5192 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Noah Meyerson. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.