



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 28, 2018

H.R. 5253 **Office of Government Information Services** **Empowerment Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on March 15, 2018*

H.R. 5253 would amend the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to permit the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to access records it needs from all agencies. (OGIS is part of the National Archives and Records Administration.) The office acts as a FOIA ombudsman, and it reviews FOIA policies and procedures and identifies steps to improve compliance with that act.

CBO expects that any budgetary effects from implementing H.R. 5253 would not be significant because the bill would primarily codify existing policies and practices. The OGIS is currently obtaining consent to access the necessary records of all federal agencies. It now has such agreements with many of the largest agencies. Thus, CBO estimates there would be no significant costs or savings from implementing H.R. 5253.

Enacting H.R. 5253 could affect direct spending by some agencies that are authorized to use receipts from the sale of goods, fees, and other collections to cover operating costs. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Because most of those agencies can make adjustments to the amounts collected as operating costs change, CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be insignificant. Enacting H.R. 5253 would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5253 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 5253 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.