

At a Glance

H.R. 150, GREAT Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on June 19, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	50	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The bill would

- Direct the Office of Management and Budget to designate an executive agency to establish data standards for reporting information about federal grant programs
- Aim to facilitate the management of federal grants and cooperative agreements
- Require federal grant award data to be publicly available

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- The cost of establishing data standards, modifying reporting systems, and training personnel across 26 federal agencies

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 150 would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and a designated executive agency to jointly establish data standards for information reported by recipients of federal grants. The act also would require that information to be publicly available, subject to certain restrictions.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 150 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within all budget functions that include grant programs.

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 150

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	0	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	0	10	10	10	10	10	50

Basis of Estimate

CBO assumes that H.R. 150 will be enacted near the end of 2019 and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

Under current law, the government uses several databases to monitor and track federal spending on grants. For example, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses www.grants.gov to provide information about federal grants and contracts. A similar OMB website, www.usaspending.gov, provides information on award amounts for all federal contracts, grants, and loans. Information from HHS and OMB indicates that under current law, the federal government has standardized some reporting requirements by grant recipients, but that information is not collected or reported consistently by all federal programs.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that HHS would be the lead agency to implement H.R. 150. HHS typically spends \$10 million to \$12 million annually on its grants website, and CBO expects that implementing H.R. 150 would involve a similar level of effort across the 26 major departments and agencies. Implementing the act would require personnel from multiple departments and agencies to develop the data elements, modify computer systems, and train staff. In total, CBO estimates, implementing the act would cost \$50 million over the 2020-2024 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.



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. H.R. 150 could affect direct spending by agencies that are not funded through annual appropriations; therefore pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates, however, that net changes in direct spending would be insignificant. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits:

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 150 would increase on-budget deficits by an insignificant amount in the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030.

Mandates: None

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