

H.R. 1709, Scientific Integrity Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on October 17, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	2	5	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1709 would recodify existing federal activities related to scientific integrity. The bill would require agencies that fund, conduct, or oversee scientific research to adopt a scientific integrity policy and submit their policies to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for approval. The bill also would direct each agency to appoint a scientific integrity officer, establish a scientific integrity training program, and report annually on misconduct. In addition, OSTP would be required to convene annual meetings of scientific integrity officers to discuss best practices and to make related information publicly available.

CBO expects that implementing the bill would increase administrative expenses for many federal agencies. Using information from OSTP and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), CBO estimates that 19 agencies would be affected by the bill; several already conduct the required activities.¹ On that basis, and considering the additional workload required under H.R. 1709, CBO estimates that the federal government would incur costs of \$2 million in 2020 and less than \$1 million annually thereafter, mostly for additional staff. H.R. 1709 also would require GAO to review how the policies are implemented. Based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that the review would cost less than \$500,000.

1. See Government Accountability Office, *Scientific Integrity Policies: Additional Actions Could Strengthen Integrity of Federal Research*, GAO 19-265 (April 2019), www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-265; and Institute for Defense Analyses, *Review of Federal Agency Policies on Scientific Integrity* (December 2016), <https://tinyurl.com/y4vdzulx>.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1709 would cost \$5 million over the 2020-2024 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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