



CBO's Work in Progress as of March 31, 2020

The Congressional Budget Office has been and is currently focused intensely on supporting the legislative process of the Congress as it responds to the novel coronavirus. The [cost estimate for H.R. 6074](#), the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, was published on March 4 for the legislation enacted on March 6. For the remainder of March, CBO provided technical assistance to the Congress as it considered H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (enacted on March 18) and H.R. 748, the CARES Act (enacted on March 27). That assistance included providing preliminary cost estimates of the effects of specific provisions and answering questions about various potential effects. CBO did not have enough time to complete estimates of the total costs of those two acts between the time final legislative language was available to the agency and the time the Congress voted on the legislation. Work on those estimates was in progress as of March 31: CBO published an estimate for H.R. 6201 yesterday, April 2, and expects to publish an estimate for H.R. 748 within two weeks.¹ Technical assistance for other legislative proposals is also in progress.

To provide useful estimates of the costs of provisions that are sensitive to economic conditions, such as those modifying unemployment insurance benefits, CBO is currently developing updated projections of key economic variables.² Those projections, along with budgetary projections, are also influenced by expectations about the spread of the novel coronavirus—for example, the duration of the national emergency declaration, the amount of time businesses will be closed to promote social distancing measures, and so on—which CBO is closely monitoring.

In addition to analysis related to the novel coronavirus, CBO is working on producing an array of other information related to the budget and economy. To provide the Congress with a

¹ See Congressional Budget Office, letter to the Honorable Nita Lowey providing an estimate for H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (April 2, 2020), www.cbo.gov/publication/56316. That estimate is preliminary, and the forthcoming estimate for H.R. 748 will be as well. Later, a comprehensive analysis of those acts will be included in a publication providing updated baseline budget projections by CBO.

² See Congressional Budget Office, “Updating CBO’s Economic Projections to Account for the Pandemic,” *CBO Blog* (April 2, 2020), www.cbo.gov/publication/56314.

comprehensive review of its work, CBO releases an annual report summarizing completed projects.³ The agency also releases quarterly reports, like this one, summarizing work in progress.

As of March 31, CBO was working on 159 cost estimates for legislation that has been ordered reported by a committee or that is the subject of a motion to be placed on the consensus calendar (see Table 1). (In the first quarter of 2020, CBO published 192 cost estimates.)

In addition, the agency was in the process of conducting work on 25 analytic products that it expects to complete in the coming months.⁴ (In the first quarter of 2020, CBO published 25 such products.)

Of the 25 ongoing products, one forthcoming report is statutorily required: *Costs of Implementing the Recommendations of the 2019 Ballistic Missile Review*.

Two other reports that were under way are editions of reports that CBO produces on a regular basis to provide budgetary or economic information:

- *Monthly Budget Review for April 2020* and
- *The Distribution of Household Income, 2017*.

Among the others that were under way, some provide information about CBO's economic analyses:

- *How CBO Models Firms' Behavior in HISIM2 in Its Baseline Budget Projections as of March 6, 2020* (published April 1);
- An evaluation of how tax changes affect the labor market differently during periods of high and low unemployment;
- A technical description of a model CBO uses to inform its macroeconomic projections of the unemployment rate and the implications for business cycles;
- An investigation of the extent to which changes in payroll taxes are passed through to employees' wages; and
- A description of CBO's method for forecasting oil prices and an assessment of accuracy.

Others explain or support the analytical methods used for CBO's budgetary estimates or provide background information:

- *Estimates of the Cost of Federal Credit Programs in 2021* (published April 2);

³ Most recently, CBO released *The Congressional Budget Office's Work in 2019: A Report to the Congress*, on March 24, 2020.

⁴ That total includes only those reports for which the fact that CBO is doing the work is currently public and does not include additional reports that are ongoing or that the agency will undertake throughout the year.

- An evaluation of the accuracy of CBO's revenue projections;
- A nontechnical explanation of how CBO treats uncertainty in cost estimates;
- An explanation of how CBO analyzes uncertainty surrounding baseline projections in the *Long-Term Budget Outlook*;
- A description of methods CBO uses to estimate the cost of certain legislative proposals that require analysts to model the probabilities and costs of a range of potential outcomes;
- A reexamination of CBO's original estimate of the cost of the legislation establishing the Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund;
- An explanation of key scorekeeping guidelines and how CBO has used them to provide cost estimates for recent legislation;
- A detailed description of the analysis that CBO conducted on the characteristics of borrowers in income-driven repayment plans for student loans and the methods that it used to project borrowers' earnings, repayment, and resulting forgiveness;
- Brief explanations of some important concepts related to the Congressional budget process—for example, the difference between rescissions and reappropriations; and
- A short explanation of how statutory pay-as-you-go procedures operate.

Seven requested reports were in progress as of March 31:

- An examination of the effects of federal student loan policies on borrowing, loan repayment, cancellation, discharge, and forgiveness;
- An analysis of the distribution of certain tax expenditures;
- An examination of the Internal Revenue Service's enforcement activities and their relationship to the agency's resources;
- A description of how CBO analyzes the federal budgetary effects of proposals to improve health through preventive medical care;
- A description of the guaranteed home loan program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including how it works, how it benefits veterans, and how it affects the federal budget;
- A description of the population without health insurance; and
- An analysis of the effects of work requirements and programs that support work in means-tested transfer programs.

CBO makes known occasions when it is working on requested analytic reports when the requester makes his or her request of CBO public or permits CBO to make the work public, sometimes in

order for the agency to gain outside feedback most effectively. Other analytic reports requested by lawmakers are in progress, and the plans to publish them are confidential. However, when the release of an analytic report is imminent, CBO announces the upcoming publication, regardless of whether or not the plans were public or confidential up to that point.⁵ Upon completion, all reports are widely available.

The Congressional Budget Office prepares this report each quarter to help keep the Congress informed about the agency's work. Megan Lynch coordinated this edition, with contributions from many people at CBO. Jeffrey Kling reviewed the report, and John Skeen was the editor.

The report is available on CBO's website (www.cbo.gov/publication/56312). CBO seeks feedback to make its work as useful as possible. Please send any comments to communications@cbo.gov.



Phillip L. Swagel
Director



⁵ CBO announces forthcoming publications on its website. See Congressional Budget Office, "Upcoming Releases," www.cbo.gov/about/press-center.

Table 1.

Forthcoming Cost Estimates for Bills Ordered Reported by a Committee or the Subject of a Motion to Be Placed on the Consensus Calendar, as of March 31, 2020

Bill Number	Title	Committee
House Bills		
H. Res. 694	Recognizing the Importance of the Civil Rights Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 4	Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 139	Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 149	Housing Fairness Act of 2020	H. Financial Services
H.R. 644	Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 712	VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 835	Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
H.R. 1049	National Heritage Area Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 1162	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 1236	Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 1379	Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act	Consensus calendar
H.R. 1423	FAIR Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 1494	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 1497	Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 1548	A bill for the relief of Maria Carmen Castro Ramirez and J. Refugio Carreno Rojas.	H. Judiciary
H.R. 1603	Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 2224	Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 2438	Not Invisible Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 2473	Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2574	Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act	H. Education and Labor

House Bills (Continued)

H.R. 2579	Hardrock Leasing and Reclamation Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2589	Unifying DHS Intelligence Enterprise Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 2640	Buffalo Tract Protection Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2694	Pregnant Workers Fairness Act	H. Education and Labor
H.R. 2699	Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 2733	Savanna's Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 2748	Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2795	Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2816	Vietnam Era Veterans Hepatitis-C Testing Enhancement Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 2847	No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act	H. Foreign Affairs
H.R. 2881	Secure 5G and Beyond Act	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 2914	Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 2956	Western Riverside Country Wildlife Refuge	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 2986	Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act	H. Science, Space, and Technology
H.R. 3068	Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3094	A bill to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3160	Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3239	Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 3250	Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3349	Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3375	Stopping Bad Robocalls Act	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 3432	Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Environmentally Responsible Pipelines (SAFER Pipelines) Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce

House Bills (Continued)

H.R. 3525	The U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 3670	The Short-Term Detention Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 3675-S	Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 3723	Desalination Development Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3742	Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 3798	Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 3884	Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 3942	Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 3948	Debt Collection Practices Harmonization Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 3991	Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 4153	Health Care Access for Urban Native Veterans Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 4230	Clean Industrial Technology (CIT) Act	H. Science, Space, and Technology
H.R. 4248	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 4348	Protect America's Wildlife and Fish in Need of Conservation Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 4351	Yes In My Backyard Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 4403	Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 4545	Private Loan Disability Discharge Act of 2019	H. Financial Services
H.R. 4713	Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 4713-S	Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 4739	Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 4761	DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 4891	Western Water Security Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources

House Bills (Continued)

H.R. 4957	Native American Child Protection Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 4996	Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 5001	Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5013	Small Business Fair Debt Collection Protection Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5038	Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5065	Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act	H. Small Business
H.R. 5068	Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5078	Prison to Proprietorship Act	H. Small Business
H.R. 5120	SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 5126	DESCEND Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5133	Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5139	Stop Sexual Assault and Harassment in Transportation Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 5179	Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5187	Housing Is Infrastructure Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5191	Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019	H. Education and Labor
H.R. 5260	Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
H.R. 5273	Securing America's Ports Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5273-S	Securing America's Ports Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 5284	Vet OUTREACH Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 5287	Fair Student Loan Debt Collection Practices Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5294	Student Borrowers Protections Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5316	Move Water Now Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5322	Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act of 2019	H. Financial Services

House Bills (Continued)

H.R. 5330	Consumer Protections for Medical Debt Collections Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5347	Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5374	Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act	H. Science, Space, and Technology
H.R. 5428	Grid Modernization Research and Development Act	H. Science, Space, and Technology
H.R. 5546	Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5552	Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2020	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 5581	Access to Counsel Act of 2020	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5602	Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5736	Transnational White Supremacist Extremism Review Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5756	Resiliency Enhancement Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 5800	Ban Surprise Billing Act	H. Education and Labor
H.R. 5802	TSA Child CARE Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5803	Washington, D.C. Admission Act	H. Oversight and Reform
H.R. 5804	CHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5811	TSA Personnel Workplace Improvement Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5821	HOSPICE Act	H. Ways and Means
H.R. 5822	Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5824	Federal Law Enforcement Training Research and Reporting Act of 2020	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5826	Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act	H. Ways and Means
H.R. 5828	DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5912	Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 5929	Shareholder Political Transparency Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5930	Workforce Investment Disclosure Act	H. Financial Services

House Bills (Continued)

H.R. 5931	Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5953	Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 6021	Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Development Act	H. Small Business
H.R. 6036	VA Family Leave Act	H. Veterans' Affairs
H.R. 6078	Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2020	H. Small Business
H.R. 6079	Microloan Improvement Act of 2020	H. Small Business
H.R. 6100	STOP FGM Act of 2020	H. Judiciary
H.R. 6133	STEP Improvement Act of 2020	H. Small Business
H.R. 6157	Transparency for Student Veterans Act	H. Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bills

S. 524	Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act of 2019	S. Veterans' Affairs
S. 903	Nuclear Energy Leadership Act	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 1046	ACCESS BROADBAND Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 1208	Protecting America's First Responders Act	H. Judiciary
S. 1245	All-of-the-Above Federal Building Energy Conservation Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 1262	Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 1494	Secure and Protect Act	S. Judiciary
S. 1706	Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 1853	BADGES for Native Communities Act	S. Indian Affairs
S. 1857	Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 1882	A bill to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, and for other purposes.	S. Energy and Natural Resources

Senate Bills (Continued)

S. 1982	Save Our Seas 2.0	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2137	Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 2162	Securing America's Borders Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2346	Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2399	A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve state loan eligibility for projects for innovative technologies.	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 2418	COASTAL Act	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 2429	Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2502	American Security Drone Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2543	Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019	S. Finance
S. 2661	National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2693	Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2702	Integrated Energy Systems Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
S. 2722	SWAG Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2740	Over-the-Counter Drug Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019	S. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
S. 2757	HELP for Small Businesses Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2800	NASA Reauthorization Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2802	Marine Mammal Research and Response Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2898	Continuity for Operators With Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers Act of 2019 (CONTRACT Act)	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senate Bills (Continued)

S. 2909	NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2971	CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2019	S. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
S. 2981	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3076	A bill to release a federal reversionary interest in Chester County, Tennessee, to manage certain federal land in Bath County, Virginia, and for other purposes.	S. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
S. 3132	US SAFE WEB	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3191	Industries of the Future Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3248	United States Anti-Doping Agency Reauthorization Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3303	Promoting Service in Transportation Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3332	No CORRUPTION Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 3412	Guidance Clarity Act of 2020	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 3418	STORM Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

CBO's designation of "S" at the end of a bill number indicates consideration by a Senate committee.
