



## CBO's Work in Progress as of July 6, 2020

To provide the Congress with a comprehensive review of its work, the Congressional Budget Office releases an annual report summarizing completed projects. The agency also publishes quarterly reports, like this one, highlighting recent activity and summarizing work in progress.<sup>1</sup>

### Recent Work

During the second quarter of 2020, CBO provided a variety of budget and economic analyses, fulfilling the agency's core mission of supporting the Congress during each stage of the legislative process. In addition to providing its regular analysis, CBO produced public and timely responses to Congressional inquiries and developed new approaches for assisting the Congress as it confronted the consequences of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.<sup>2</sup> Those approaches included releasing budget and economic analysis more frequently and making certain budget analysis more accessible.

For example, CBO released a number of publications to provide current information about the rapidly changing economic outlook. In April, the agency published [preliminary information](#) about key economic variables in the near term; in May, it published *Interim Economic Projections for 2020 and 2021*; and last week, it published *An Update to the Economic Outlook: 2020 to 2030*. (CBO typically releases its economic projections along with its budget projections later in the summer, but this year, the economic projections were released early to provide the Congress with CBO's most current assessment of the economic outlook.)

Similarly, in response to Congressional requests, CBO published information about [federal funding for state and local governments](#) and about certain [budgetary effects of the coronavirus pandemic](#), including how tax deferrals will affect federal revenues and what laws enacted in response to the pandemic will have the largest effect on the federal budget deficit. CBO also provided a [comparison of its May 2020 interim projections of gross domestic product with its January 2020 baseline](#)

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<sup>1</sup> For CBO's most recent annual report, see Congressional Budget Office, *The Congressional Budget Office's Work in 2019: A Report to the Congress* (March 2020), [www.cbo.gov/publication/56237](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/56237). For CBO's most recent quarterly report, see Congressional Budget Office, *CBO's Work in Progress as of March 31, 2020* (April 2020), [www.cbo.gov/publication/56312](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/56312).

<sup>2</sup> For a list of CBO products related to the pandemic, see Congressional Budget Office, "COVID-19," [www.cbo.gov/topics/covid-19](http://www.cbo.gov/topics/covid-19).

projections and responded to questions about the decline in those projections. Furthermore, CBO released an examination of the economic effects of additional unemployment benefits and provided information about the characteristics of people receiving regular unemployment benefits.

CBO continued to provide technical assistance and cost estimates as the Congress developed and considered legislation. Also, as a complement to the individual cost estimates provided for pandemic-related legislation, CBO released a matrix summarizing the budgetary effects of each pandemic-related law enacted in March and April. And CBO kept the Congress abreast of its plans, releasing a schedule for its major recurring reports and communicating schedule changes through its blog.

## Work in Progress

As of July 6, CBO was working on 96 cost estimates for legislation that had been ordered reported by a committee or that was the subject of a motion to be placed on the consensus calendar (see Table 1 on page 5). (CBO published 192 cost estimates in the first quarter of 2020 and 89 cost estimates in the second quarter.)

In addition, the agency was working on 29 analytic products that it expected to complete in the coming months.<sup>3</sup> (CBO published 25 such products in the first quarter of 2020 and 13 in the second quarter.)

Of the 29 ongoing products, two forthcoming reports are statutorily required:

- *Costs of Implementing the Recommendations of the 2019 Ballistic Missile Review* and
- *Sequestration Update Report*.

Four other reports that were under way as of July 6 are editions of reports that CBO produces on a regular basis to provide budgetary or economic information:

- *An Update to the Budget Outlook: 2020 to 2030*;
- *Monthly Budget Review for June 2020*;
- *Long-Term Implications of the 2021 Future Years Defense Program*; and
- *The Distribution of Household Income, 2017*.

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

- An evaluation of how tax changes affect the labor market differently during periods of high and low unemployment;

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<sup>3</sup> That total includes only reports that are expected to be completed soon and are not currently confidential.

- An examination of the effects that federal policies adopted in response to the pandemic and recession are expected to have on economic outcomes;
- A technical description of a model CBO uses to inform its macroeconomic projections of the unemployment rate and the implications for business cycles;
- A technical description of the methods CBO uses to project the effects of policies on pharmaceutical innovation;
- A description of the methods CBO uses to estimate the size and work experience of the foreign-born population in the United States;
- An analysis of the extent to which changes in payroll taxes are passed through to employees' wages; and
- A description of how CBO models effective tax rates on capital income.

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

- An evaluation of the accuracy of CBO's revenue projections;
- A report describing how the prices of brand-name prescription drugs are determined in different federal programs and comparing those prices among programs;
- An explanation of how CBO analyzes uncertainty surrounding baseline projections in *The Long-Term Budget Outlook*;
- A description of the 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 short explanation of how statutory pay-as-you-go procedures operate;
- A reexamination of CBO's original estimate of the cost of the legislation establishing the Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund; and
- An explanation of key scorekeeping guidelines and how CBO has used them to provide cost estimates for recent legislation.

Nine requested reports were in progress as of July 6:

- A report analyzing the costs of allowing the New START treaty to expire;
- 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 that agency's resources;
- A report analyzing the cost of the Navy's Future Frigate Program;
- 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 report examining policies to approach universal health insurance coverage;
- 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, in its work on requested analytic reports, the requester has made his or her request public or has permitted CBO to make the work public. Making those occasions known sometimes helps the agency gain outside feedback more effectively. Plans to publish other analytic reports are currently confidential. However, when the publication of an analytic report is imminent, CBO announces it, regardless of whether or not the plans were public or confidential up to that point.<sup>4</sup> Upon completion, all reports are available to the public on CBO's website.

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 Benjamin Plotinsky was the editor.

The report is available on CBO's website ([www.cbo.gov/publication/56463](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/56463)). CBO seeks feedback to make its work as useful as possible. Please send any comments to [communications@cbo.gov](mailto:communications@cbo.gov).



Phillip L. Swagel  
Director



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<sup>4</sup> See Congressional Budget Office, "Upcoming Releases," [www.cbo.gov/about/press-center](http://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 July 6, 2020**

Bill Number	Title	Committee
<b>House Bills</b>		
H.R. 4	Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 192	Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act	S. Foreign Relations
H.R. 644	Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement 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. 1603	Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
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. 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. 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. 2795	Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
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. 3160	Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act	H. Natural Resources

**House Bills (Continued)**

H.R. 3239	Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 3375	Stopping Bad Robocalls Act	H. Energy and Commerce
H.R. 3432	Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Environmentally Responsible Pipeline (SAFER Pipeline) Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
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. 3742	Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
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. 4248	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act	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. 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. 4761	DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
H.R. 4891	Western Water Security Act of 2019	H. Natural Resources
H.R. 4996	Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services Act of 2019	H. Energy and Commerce
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. 5120	SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019	H. Transportation and Infrastructure

**House Bills (Continued)**

H.R. 5133	Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2019	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5187	Housing Is Infrastructure Act	H. Financial Services
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. 5287	Fair Student Loan Debt Collection Practices Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5294	Student Borrowers Protections Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5322	Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act of 2019	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5330	Consumer Protections for Medical Debt Collections Act	H. Financial Services
H.R. 5546	Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5581	Access to Counsel Act of 2020	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5602	Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act	H. Judiciary
H.R. 5756	Resiliency Enhancement Act	H. Transportation and Infrastructure
H.R. 5800	Ban Surprise Billing Act	H. Education and Labor
H.R. 5811	TSA Personnel Workplace Improvement Act	H. Homeland Security
H.R. 5821	HOSPICE Act	H. Ways and Means
H.R. 5826	Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act	H. Ways and Means
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. 6078	Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2020	H. Small Business
H.R. 6079	Microloan Improvement Act of 2020	H. Small Business

**Senate Bills**

S. 685	Inspector General Access Act of 2019	S. Judiciary
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**Senate Bills (Continued)**

S. 903	Nuclear Energy Leadership Act	S. Energy and Natural Resources
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. 1494	Secure and Protect Act	S. Judiciary
S. 1706	Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2019	S. Energy and Natural Resources
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
S. 1982	Save Our Seas 2.0 Act	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. 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. 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. 2722	SWAG Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2757	HELP for Small Businesses Act	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 2802	Marine Mammal Research and Response Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2894	Federal Maritime Commission National Shipper Advisory Committee Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation



**Senate Bills (Continued)**

S. 2909	NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 2981	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2019	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3176	United States–Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2020	S. Foreign Relations
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. 3398	EARN IT Act of 2020	S. Judiciary
S. 3412	Guidance Clarity Act of 2020	S. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
S. 3590	Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	S. Environment and Public Works
S. 3591	America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020	S. Environment and Public Works
S. 3681	A bill to require a joint task force on air travel during and after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and for other purposes	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3704	Advanced Technological Manufacturing Act	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3712	Cyber Leap Act of 2020	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3729	Motor Carrier Safety Grant Relief Act of 2020	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3734	Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2020	S. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
S. 3905	Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021	S. Select Intelligence

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Source: Congressional Budget Office.

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

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