

H.R. 2043, PLUM Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on June 29, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	8	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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 2043 would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to maintain a website for *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, a directory of certain government positions and government policies often referred to as the Plum Book. Federal agencies would be required to provide that information for their own employees to OPM monthly. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$7 million for OPM and federal agencies to carry out those activities. The volume is now published every four years, alternately by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The Government Publishing Office currently maintains the online version of the Plum Book. The bill also would discontinue the print version of the Plum Book in 2024. Finally, H.R. 2043 would direct OPM to annually report on the demographic information of position holders and would direct the Government Accountability Office to report on the implementation of the bill.

Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that developing and updating the website required under H.R. 2043 would cost \$7 million over the 2021-2026 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount. In addition, and based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that the required reports would cost about \$1 million over the 2021-2026 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. We expect that discontinuing the print version of the Plum Book would reduce costs



by an insignificant amount. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$8 million over that period.

Enacting the bill could affect direct spending by some agencies that are allowed to use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible because most of them can adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.