

**H.R. 6276, USE IT Act of 2023**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 6, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6276 would:

- Direct the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA) to establish standard methodologies to measure occupancy in public buildings and federally leased space,
- Require federal agencies to report on the occupancy and usage rates of public buildings, and
- Require GSA to take various actions to increase usage rates in buildings with federal personnel that are consistently below 60 percent usage rates.

**Background**

GSA manages approximately 1,500 federally owned buildings and more than 7,500 facilities that are leased from the private sector.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, research on occupancy rates for private sector and federal office buildings estimated that 60 percent to 70 percent of employees reported to a federal office building on an average day. Since March 2020, many agencies have shifted

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



towards a maximum telework policy. Using a sample of office buildings across the United States, GSA estimates that average daily occupancy has decreased to around 30 percent. In April 2023, OMB directed federal agencies to update their operational policies, with the expectation that those plans will increase meaningful in-person work at federal offices while maintaining certain flexible policies related to remote work.

Beginning in 2020, GSA has been piloting new methods to collect occupancy data in federal buildings. In 2022, about three-quarters of federal occupants of buildings managed by GSA reported that they were tracking such data. Using that occupancy data, GSA reports it has been able to consolidate some offices in the District of Columbia, and CBO expects that consolidation reduced costs for annual rent.

### **Estimated Federal Cost**

Consistent with direction from OMB, CBO expects that building usage rates will rise going forward as agencies increase in-person work requirements. Additionally, CBO expects that GSA will continue to consolidate office space consistent with the agency's ongoing programs, to the extent that usage rates of federal buildings remain low.

On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6276 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2028 period, primarily for administrative activities associated with the bill's reporting requirements. That spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 6276 also 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 is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Phillip L. Swagel  
Director, Congressional Budget Office