



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 22, 2012

H.R. 3262 **Government Results and Transparency Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on November 3, 2011*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3262 would amend the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which requires all federal agencies to prepare performance and strategic plans. Under the legislation, agencies would be required to make performance and spending data for each program available at a searchable Web site. The legislation also would require the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (Recovery Board) to establish consistent standards for information reported at that Web site.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3262 would cost \$115 million over the 2013-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, primarily for additional administrative activities and computer upgrades to standardize reporting requirements. The legislation would affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations, such as the Bonneville Power Administration and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any change in spending by those agencies would not be significant. Enacting H.R. 3262 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 3262 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3262 over the 2013-2017 period is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within function 800 (general government) and all budget functions that include agencies that file GPRA reports.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2013- 2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	25	25	25	20	20	115
Estimated Outlays	23	25	25	22	20	115

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2012, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 3262 would require agencies to publish performance and spending data for all programs at one searchable Web site organized by the Recovery Board. The legislation also would require the Recovery Board to establish consistent data standards and identifiers for governmentwide performance reporting.

The cost to implement the bill would depend on how many changes the Recovery Board would require to standardize reporting. Information from the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration suggests that few agencies have similar reporting standards. Under the bill, CBO expects that the administrative workload of most agencies would increase, significant changes to computer systems software and hardware would be needed to standardize the performance reporting governmentwide, and additional training for employees would need to be provided to support the changes. We estimate that additional spending among the 24 major federal agencies would vary significantly but would average about \$1 million a year for each agency to implement this legislation. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3262 would cost \$115 million over the 2013-2017 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. Enacting H.R. 3262 could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through the appropriations process, but CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant in any year. Enacting H.R. 3262 would not affect revenues.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3262 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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