

S. 196, Modernizing Congressional Reporting Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 13, 2019

Millions of Dollars				Spending Subject to Appropriation
	Direct Spending	Revenues	Net Deficit Effect	
2019	0	0	0	0
2019-2024	*	0	*	2
2019-2029	*	0	*	n.a.
Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects		
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No	
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No	
n.a. = not applicable; * = between zero and \$500,000.				

S. 196 would require that all of the information federal agencies provide to the Congress be submitted in an electronic format. In addition, the bill would direct each agency to make electronically submitted information available on their respective public websites in a free, open, and accessible manner. Finally, agencies would be required to make a list of all information transmitted to Congress—including reports, data, and other materials—publicly available via data.gov.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$2 million over the 2019-2024 period. CBO expects that each of the 26 major executive agencies would need about 15 percent of the time of one federal employee at an average annual cost of \$15,000. That time would be spent on submitting Congressionally-mandated reports electronically, as well as creating and updating an online searchable database where reports would be published. Any spending for those activities would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting S. 196 would affect direct spending by some agencies (such as the Tennessee Valley Authority) because they are authorized to use receipts from the sale of goods, fees, and other collections to cover their operating costs. Because most of those agencies can adjust the amounts collected, CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. This estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.