

H.R. 1930, Federal Advisory Committee Transparency Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on May 13, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	85	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. 1930 would amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which governs the operation of most federal advisory committees. The bill also would impose stricter ethics requirements on committee members and would expand the applicability of disclosure requirements for some members. Additionally, H.R. 1930 would require agencies to make more information about those committees available to the public and to make the process of establishing a committee and selecting members more transparent. Finally, the bill would extend FACA regulations to cover additional advisory committees and would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to the Congress on appointments of advisory committee members.

Reports from the General Services Administration (GSA), show that the federal government has about 1,000 advisory committees (with about 55,000 members) that provide advice and recommendations to about 50 departments and agencies. Those committees, also called commissions, councils, or task forces, collect a variety of viewpoints on specific policy issues. The total cost to operate such committees during fiscal year 2021 was \$327 million.

Under FACA, GSA maintains management guidelines for committees and advises committees on implementing them. The Office of Government Ethics is responsible for developing regulations and guidance for advisory committee members who serve as special



government employees and must meet specific requirements pertaining to conflicts of interest.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted late in fiscal year 2022. The bill would take effect 30 days after enactment; thus, estimated spending under the bill would begin in fiscal year 2023 and would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

To meet the requirements in the bill, CBO expects that federal agencies would need additional personnel and would need to change the criteria for selecting advisory committee members. Using information from several agencies about their current costs to comply with FACA, CBO estimates that in total implementing the bill would cost about \$30 million annually (or about 10 percent of the cost of operating those committees in 2021). CBO expects that it would take about three years for agencies to phase in those requirements. In addition, CBO estimates that it would cost GAO less than \$500,000 to complete the required reports. In total, CBO estimates, implementing H.R. 1930 would cost \$85 million over the 2022-2026 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall primarily within budget function 800 (general government) but would affect all budget functions that include funding for federal advisory committees.

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1930

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2022-2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Estimated Authorization	0	15	20	25	30	90
Estimated Outlays	0	12	19	24	30	85

Enacting H.R. 1930 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 Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.