

S. 2838, Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on November 3, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	2	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.			

S. 2838 would require the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to establish and maintain a website for the public to obtain electronic copies of all Congressionally mandated reports. Under the bill, all federal agencies would be required to provide GPO with electronic copies of reports required by law each year.

Using information from GPO and federal agencies that produce thousands of Congressionally mandated reports, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$400,000 a year or \$2 million over the 2022-2026 period. Those costs primarily consist of the salaries and expenses associated with four employees who would establish and maintain the website. In addition, there would be some costs for the agencies to collect and submit reports in the required format. CBO also expects the website would primarily contain recent filings and would not include many older reports. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting S. 2838 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.



On June 14, 2021, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 2485](#), the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on May 13, 2021. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and the estimated costs are the same.

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