



H.R. 7032, THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE DATA SHARING ACT

Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) | Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

The **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** is tasked with providing Congress budgetary analyses on the impact of legislation considered by the United States Congress.

THE PROBLEM

- ⊗ Despite the data access authority granted to CBO under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, CBO encounters **ongoing challenges in accessing necessary data** from executive branch agencies promptly and without restrictions.
- ⊗ These constraints **delay critically important, comprehensive budget analyses** and **economic forecasting**, hindering lawmakers' ability to make informed decisions regarding the **fiscal impact** of prospective legislation.

THE SOLUTION: H.R. 7032, THE CBO DATA SHARING ACT

- ✓ **Maintains Confidentiality** by expanding access to data, this bill protects sensitive information by maintaining legal confidentiality protections.
- ✓ **Clarifies CBO Authority** by amending existing law to clarify and expand the CBO Director's authority to request and receive data from executive branch agencies.
- ✓ **Safeguards Legislative Intent** through an included provision that prevents future laws from limiting or modifying CBO's enhanced data acquisition authority unless explicitly stated.
- ✓ **Implements New Reporting Requirement** which mandates that CBO submit a report to the Budget Committees, both in the House and Senate, that details requests made under this new authority and any challenges encountered within a year of the bill's enactment.

THE NEED FOR REFORM: CBO's Ability to Access Agency Data



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- Previous efforts by CBO to better evaluate the fiscal impact of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have **encountered significant delays** due to layers of federal bureaucracy within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Despite FEMA's expressed desire to cooperate with CBO in providing critically important census data, concerns about FEMA's **legal authority to share the required data** prolonged programmatic funding negotiations.

This situation exemplifies the type of bureaucratic entanglement that **H.R 7032, the CBO Data Sharing Act** seeks to eliminate.

By **clarifying** and **codifying** CBO's authority to access data from federal agencies, the bill would alleviate FEMA's concerns, ensuring that similar cooperative efforts are not hamstrung by legal ambiguity.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

- CBO's historically fraught interactions with the Social Security Administration (SSA) best exemplifies the systemic challenges caused by ill-defined intergovernmental information sharing practices.
- The process of **renewing data sharing agreements**, a vital practice needed for the development of CBO's legislative cost analyses, have been met with **persistent delays from SSA**.
- One particular data sharing agreement with the SSA required **over a year of negotiations** to secure its approval.
- CBO's inability to access up-to-date SSA collected data highlights a broader challenge where **differing interpretations of legislative mandates**, such as the Privacy Act versus the Budget Act, increase **inefficiencies** and **obstacles** to data access and, by extension, delays the subsequent legislative process.

H.R 7032, the CBO Data Sharing Act streamlines existing mandates by **specifying** and **expanding** the CBO Director's authority to request and receive data from executive branch agencies, like the SSA.