

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8570

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to include the effects of using baseline assumptions when preparing estimates under such Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2026

Mr. CLINE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to include the effects of using baseline assumptions when preparing estimates under such Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cost Estimate Clarity
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF BASELINE ON CBO ESTIMATES.**

2 Section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
3 (2 U.S.C. 653) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “The Director” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(b) EFFECTS OF BASELINE.—With respect to any
9 estimate prepared under subsection (a), the Office shall,
10 to the greatest extent practicable, include a description of
11 the effects of using baseline assumptions under section
12 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Con-
13 trol Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907) on the estimate, includ-
14 ing—

15 “(1) a quantitative estimate of the difference
16 between the estimate and the cost of the measure if
17 baseline assumptions were not used to prepare such
18 estimate;

19 “(2) which baseline assumption caused such dif-
20 ference; and

21 “(3) an explanation of any programs or provi-
22 sions for which the baseline assumptions results in
23 the estimate showing lower or no budgetary cost rel-
24 ative to actual expected Federal expenditures, in-
25 cluding any instance where the baseline assumes the

- 1 extension or continuation of a program, benefit, or
- 2 payment rate.”.

