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U.S. House of Representatives
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January 12, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 503 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this annual report about the establishment and maintenance of an up-to-date database of information on the expiration dates of all federal programs.

As my office has reported previously, identifying all programs, projects, and activities currently authorized by law and when they expire presents both conceptual and methodological issues, making it challenging to compile an authoritative list.¹

Both the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) have explored such possibilities and report that there are significant challenges to creating a complete, authoritative list of programs and their expiration dates. These challenges continue and are identified in the attached CRS memorandum on the identification of “appropriations not authorized by law.”

There is an annual report provided by the CBO, which includes only expired and expiring authorization of appropriation expenditures, not the authorization of the programs themselves. The report for fiscal year 2023 is attached.²

¹ <https://usgpo.github.io/innovation/reports>.

² <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58170>.

Finally, my staff and I are aware of the following language in House Report 118-120 accompanying H.R 4364, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, 2024. The scope of the requested feasibility study appears to address some of the provisions of Section 503 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress regarding “expired” federal programs. My staff and I stand ready to support the CAO’s office where appropriate.

Committee Historical Files: Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the CAO is directed to conduct a feasibility study for creating an electronic database of spending to assist House Committees with historical tracking. The database would include all enacted legislation that authorizes or provides budget authority from fiscal year 2000 forward, including all mandatory spending in authorizing bills (organized by Committee with primary jurisdiction) and discretionary spending in regular and emergency appropriations bills (organized by Appropriations subcommittee). In conducting this study, CAO is directed to consult with the Committees on Appropriations, authorizing committees, the Congressional Research Service, Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office to determine the sources of data, personnel requirements, and costs expected to complete and maintain this electronic database. CAO should also assess software options that are available to assist in this effort.

If you or others on the Committee have questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

Attachments

- Congressional Budget Office Report, “Expired and Expiring Authorizations of Appropriations: Fiscal Year 2022,” August 31, 2022.
- Congressional Research Service Memorandum, “CRS Identification of ‘Appropriations not Authorized by Law,’” November 1, 2016.