



**The most useful
table in
appropriations
tracking is the one
almost nobody
reads.**

MEET THE CSBA.



CSBA = Comparative Statement of (New) Budget Authority

Every account in the bill.

One running table.

In the back of the committee report.

Key Insight

It's in THOUSANDS.

A line that reads 8,525,000 is \$8.5 billion, not \$8.5 million.

If your number feels off by three orders of magnitude – it is.

The columns

5 columns, left to right:

- Enacted
- Request
- Bill
- Bill vs. Enacted
- Bill vs. Request

The Bill column is the bill. The rest tell you what changed.

The payoff

Three subtractions, three stories:

- $\text{Bill} - \text{Enacted} = \text{the policy change}$
- $\text{Bill} - \text{Request} = \text{how Congress treated the President}$
- $\text{Enacted} - \text{Request} = \text{the size of the ask}$

The gap between Request and Bill is where the politics lives.

The hidden cost

A provision with NO dollar amount can still cost money.

A transfer prohibition in the Energy & Water bill? No number in the text.

The CSBA scores it at \$2 million. If you're just reading the bill, you'd never know.

Incorporation by reference

Sometimes the bill points AT the table – and makes it law.

Nuclear Energy: the statutory set-aside would compute to ~\$360M.

The bill says: use the number in the report's detail table → \$134M.

If you only read the bill, you can't know the limit.

The catch

You can't get it until the report drops.

House: available before full committee.

Senate: after full committee.

Until then, you're relying on bill text.

Read our full guide

