

How LegisMe evaluates Legislation

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Ranking

LegisMe ranks bills based on importance and fiscal impact. Although importance is hard to define, in this case, we define importance as the perceived impact of the bill on American society. For example, a bill for renaming a post office would be ranked 1, while a bill for implementing an environmental policy would be ranked a 3. Fiscal impact is defined as the amount of money that is saved/ spent by the legislation. Our Weight of Bill formula is denoted by the following:

$$WeightofBill = Importance * FiscalImpact \quad (1)$$

Example

Assume we are assessing a bill that proposes a tax increase that will impact 50 percent of the American population. We multiply our highest value of the scale (which is 9) times the percentage at which it affects the population. Therefore we obtain, $(9 * .5) = 4.5$, making 4.5 our value of importance. Suppose the bill requires 100 billion dollars but saves us 50 billion dollars. Therefore we obtain, $(100 / 50) = 2$, making 2 our value for fiscal impact.

$$WeightofBill = 4.5 * 2 \quad (2)$$

$$9 = 4.5 * 2 \quad (3)$$

It would make sense that this bill is weighted at a 9 if it is going to affect 50 percent of the population and where the amount of money lost outweighs the amount of money, thus making the weight of this bill high.

For and Against

The For and Against feature allows our readers to understand the positive and negative impacts a bill has. Generally, we will cite from scholarly sources that have assessed the same bills that we have in order to provide the reader with more perspective.