Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2018 (HR 6901, 115th Congress)

SciPol Summary

HR 6901 is designed to improve government performance and efficiency using the internet and information technology. The legislation replaces the E-Government Fund with the Federal IT Fund that would be overseen by the Federal Chief Information Officer. The Federal Chief Information Office (previously the Office of Electronic Government) is an office of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Federal Chief Information Officer works with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and other offices of the Office of Management and Budget to oversee the development of enterprise architecture (how current technology is used to make new technology); capital planning and investment control; and information maintenance, accessibility, and security. They sit on the advisory board for the Presidential Information Fellows Program that gives skilled individuals in technology opportunities to work with the government and the Chief Information Officers Council to sponsor dialogue among Federal, local, state, and tribal government leaders about information technology standards.
The Federal Chief Information Officer, with the Office of Management and Budget:

- provides oversight and recommendations for efficient use of resources and technology;
- recommends new government policies to set the framework for information technology;
- distributes funds from the Federal IT Fund to agencies using information technology;
- facilitates multiagency collaboration to promote innovative uses of information technology through research, innovative technology, and other support;
- sponsors activities to engage the general public in dialogue pertaining to policy development, disparities in accessing technology, and reworking Government-to-business transactions;

The Federal Chief Information Security Officer position created by HR 6901 operates within the Federal Chief Information Office to ensure the security of information and information systems for all Federal agencies and direct the cybersecurity efforts of the Office of Management and Budget. The Office of Management and Budget will create a framework to collect data reports on information technology expenditures from agencies and make them publicly available and computer-readable.

The Federal Chief Information Officer will submit a report to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform [14] of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs [15] of the Senate detailing the progress of the Office of Management and Budget’s process for collecting the internet technology expenditures of government agencies. They will also submit a proposal to Congress for how information technology can be better integrated into government legislation, consolidated across government agencies, and used as a shared service.

SciPol Summary authored by
Bryan Somaiah, MA Candidate[16]

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