

CHOICE

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The following review will appear in the August 2015 issue of CHOICE.

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Baumgartner, Frank R. *The politics of information: problem definition and the course of public policy in America*, by Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones. Chicago, 2015. 231p bibl index afp ISBN 9780226198095, \$85.00; ISBN 9780226198125 pbk, \$27.50; ISBN 9780226198262 ebook, contact publisher for price.

The authors of the seminal *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* (CH, Sep'93, 31-0574), Baumgartner and Jones have again contributed to the body of knowledge on agenda setting in public policy. In this analysis of how governments discover, define, and address problems, the authors present a model for how governments prioritize problems as problems go through the agenda-setting process. They examine how a situation or condition comes to be defined as a problem or an issue in which government may intervene. Baumgartner and Jones set forth two models for this process of problem discovery and definition. First is the entropic search that signals a potential problem has been detected. Second is expertise, which begins the process of understanding or exploring the problem and its impacts. This book is appropriate for those concerned with public administration, public policy, policy analysis, policy sciences, and related fields.

--L. T. Grover, *Southern University and A&M College*

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, research, and professional collections.