



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 23, 2018

**H.R. 5681**  
**Global Engagement Center Authorities Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
on May 9, 2018*

H.R. 5681 would amend the authorities of the Department of State's Global Engagement Center. The Center was established by an executive order in 2016, and authorization for the Center was enacted in 2018. Its mission is to lead and coordinate the federal government's efforts to deter foreign propaganda and disinformation that could undermine U.S. national security interests.

The bill would:

- Provide the Center greater authority in coordinating federal agencies;
- Require it to evaluate activities and measure outcomes;
- Require it to identify countries, regions, and populations in which propaganda and disinformation are most likely to cause harm;
- Encourage it to give hiring preference to certain members of the Foreign Service and provide flexibility in other hiring practices; and
- Require annual briefings to the Congress on its activities.

On the basis of information from the Center about its ongoing and planned activities and its hiring practices, CBO expects that the bill's major requirements either already are or soon will be met. Therefore, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2023 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 5681 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5681 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 5681 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.