

H.R. 4428, Guidance Clarity Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability on September 20, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 4428 would require federal agencies to include text in their guidance documents to clarify that such guidance is not legally binding. Guidance documents typically explain how regulations are interpreted by the agency but do not carry the force of law. Agencies disseminate guidance to the public in memorandums, notices, bulletins, directives, news releases, letters, blog posts, or speeches.

CBO expects that placing a clarifying statement in each guidance document would not significantly increase agencies' administrative costs. CBO estimates that the administrative expenses associated with implementing H.R. 4428 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2028 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 4428 could affect direct spending by some agencies that are allowed to use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible because most of them can adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs.

On April 17, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 108](#), the Guidance Clarity Act of 2023, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



Governmental Affairs on March 29, 2023. The two bills are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office