

H.R. 5425, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes

As reported by the House Committee on Small Business on September 26, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 5425 would require the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to use a competitive hiring process to select an assistant administrator who would head the office. (Under current law, the Administrator of the SBA appoints a director to head that office.) The bill also would require the agency to conduct webinars and hold regional outreach events to assist rural businesses and report annually about those activities.

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, CBO expects that the federal pay for people selected through competitive hiring and appointment are similar. Additionally, the SBA already collects the data necessary for the required webinars and reports, including statistics on gaps in lending programs to rural businesses and the number of outreach events. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

See also

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



The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. 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, sweeping tail that curves upwards and to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office