



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 28, 2016

H.R. 5460 **First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act**

As passed by the House of Representatives on September 26, 2016

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to help state, local, and tribal governments develop their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism. Under current law, equipment purchased using such grants must meet voluntary standards, developed by FEMA in coordination with appropriate federal agencies, the National Advisory Council, and private entities. Requests to use grants to purchase equipment that does not meet such standards, or for which no such standards exist, are subject to further review and approval by FEMA.

H.R. 5460 would require FEMA to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications for grants intended to support purchases of innovative equipment that does not meet or exceed current applicable standards or for which no voluntary standards exist. The bill also would require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to assess and report on FEMA's implementation of the new review process.

Based on information from FEMA, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. According to the agency, grant recipients rarely request permission to purchase equipment that does not at least meet current standards or for which standards do not exist. As a result, CBO expects that any administrative costs to establish, implement, assess, and report on the proposed process for reviewing such requests would be insignificant; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 5460 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 5460 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jacob Fabian. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.