



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 24, 2015

S. 1864
Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on July 29, 2015*

S. 1864 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), within 120 days of the bill's enactment, to develop and use various metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of security measures at the United States border and to evaluate the operations of the Office of Air and Marine in DHS. The bill would direct the department to submit annual reports to the Congress on the new measurement methods and would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit biannual reports to the Congress on the suitability and validity of the metrics used by DHS.

In recent years, DHS has made considerable planning and operational efforts to secure U.S. borders, including the use of selected metrics to gauge the success of those efforts. Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that it would cost less than \$500,000 annually for the department to meet the bill's reporting requirements and deadlines. Based on the cost of similar activities, we estimate that it would cost GAO less than \$500,000 every other year (beginning in 2017) to prepare reports as required by the bill. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1864 would cost a total of about \$2 million over the 2016-2020 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1864 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 Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.