

H.R. 1232, Rescinding DHS' Waiver Authority for Border Wall Act

As reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on May 2, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	n.e.
Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
n.e. = not estimated; * = less than \$500,000			

Current law authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to waive all state, local, and federal laws—including environmental and land management laws, for example—as necessary to expedite the construction of barriers and roads near United States borders. The department has exercised its waiver authority in recent years, including in 2018 and 2019. H.R. 1232 would repeal this authority for any future construction.

The Congress appropriated about \$1.4 billion for fiscal year 2019 for construction of barriers along the southern U.S. border. CBO expects that implementing the bill could result in DHS modifying its future plans for constructing barriers in certain areas or moving some projects to other sites. Implementation of the bill could change the rate of future spending on barrier projects, but CBO does not expect total DHS spending over the next few years to change significantly.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was reviewed by Theresa Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.