

S. 174, Securing Energy Infrastructure Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 16, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	12	12
Statutory 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?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 174 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million for the Department of Energy (DOE) to carry out a pilot program to identify security weaknesses in critical infrastructure (for example, power generation, transmission, and distribution systems) that could result in debilitating effects on national security, economic security, public health, or safety. DOE, in partnership with participating owners and operators of such infrastructure, would evaluate technologies and standards that could be used to defend those assets.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million for DOE to establish a working group to evaluate the technologies and standards examined in the pilot program. The working group also would be required to develop a national engineering strategy to be used to protect the nation's critical infrastructure from security vulnerabilities.

On the basis of historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$11.5 million over the 2020-2024 period, subject to appropriation of the specified amounts.

S. 174 would impose an intergovernmental mandate, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), on state, local, and tribal governments. The bill would preempt state and local laws that would otherwise require governmental agencies participating in the pilot program to disclose information about their activities, such as sharing cybersecurity information. Although the preemption would limit the application of state and local laws,

CBO estimates that it would impose no duty on state or local governments that would result in additional spending or a loss of revenues.

S. 174 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are William Ma (for federal costs) and Brandon Lever (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.