

H.R. 4782, National Commission on Online Platforms and Homeland Security Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on October 23, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	3	5	5
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?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 4782 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to research how online platforms may be used to facilitate acts of terrorism. On the basis of information from DHS regarding the costs of similar research efforts, CBO estimates implementing that provision would cost \$4 million.

The bill also would establish a national commission to study how entities have used social media and other online platforms to threaten U.S. national security. The commission would be required to provide recommendations on ways to mitigate the effects of online terrorist content and electoral-disinformation campaigns. The commission would terminate after two years. Using information about the costs of similar commissions, CBO estimates that staff salaries, security clearance costs, and other expenses would be \$1 million.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending by \$5 million over the 2020-2024 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriations.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aldo Prospero. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.