

**At a Glance**

**H.R. 5602, Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2020**

As passed by the House of Representatives on September 21, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
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	184	[not estimated]

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

**The act would**

- Authorize whatever amounts are necessary for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create offices dedicated to combating domestic terrorism and to support those offices with adequate levels of staff and other resources
- Create an interagency task force to combat white supremacist infiltration of the uniformed services and federal law enforcement agencies

**Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from**

- Spending by the FBI, DOJ, and DHS to hire additional agents, intelligence analysts, attorneys, and other staff to combat domestic terrorism

**Areas of significant uncertainty include**

- Decisions made by federal law enforcement officials about the number of employees and level of other resources necessary to adequately counter domestic terrorism threats

**Detailed estimate begins on the next page.**

### Legislation Summary

Under current law, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) investigate, prosecute, and work to prevent acts of terrorism—both domestic and international in nature. H.R. 5602 would require each of those agencies to create new offices dedicated to investigating and preventing domestic terrorism and would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for those offices.

Under the act, the agencies would produce a joint report every six months that assesses, quantifies, and characterizes domestic terrorism threats nationwide, including threats posed by white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups. Each agency’s domestic terrorism office would be directed to focus its resources on the most significant threats, as determined by the number of incidents from each threat category identified in the joint report during the preceding six months.

### Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 5602 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

<b>Table 1. Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 5602</b>							
	<b>By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars</b>						<b>2020-2025</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	
Federal Bureau of Investigation							
Estimated Authorization	0	8	15	30	46	56	155
Estimated Outlays	0	6	14	27	43	54	144
Department of Justice							
Estimated Authorization	0	2	4	7	7	8	28
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	6	7	8	27
Department of Homeland Security							
Estimated Authorization	0	1	3	3	3	3	13
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	3	3	3	13
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	11	22	40	56	67	196
Estimated Outlays	0	9	21	36	53	65	184

## Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in fiscal year 2021 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on an analysis of information provided by the FBI, DOJ, and DHS, as well as historical patterns of spending for similar activities and programs.

## Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 5602 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for the FBI, DOJ, and DHS to create offices dedicated to combating domestic terrorism.

Using information provided by each agency about current staffing levels committed to domestic terrorism and anticipated future needs under the act, CBO expects that the agencies would require additional staff and other resources to implement H.R. 5602. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$184 million over the 2021-2025 period.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation.** The FBI's Domestic Terrorism Operations Section employs about 85 special agents, intelligence analysts, and other personnel who provide management and guidance to the agency's 350 field agents assigned to 56 field offices.

Using information from the agency, CBO expects that the FBI would need an additional 175 field agents (an increase of roughly 50 percent of current staffing levels) at an average annual cost of \$220,000 each (including salary, benefits, and overtime pay) to implement the act's requirements. CBO estimates the agency also would need 45 additional employees, at an average annual cost of \$140,000, for management, intelligence gathering, and other operational duties at its headquarters. CBO estimates that the cost of those additional personnel, which we expect would occur gradually over the next five years, would total \$144 million over the 2021-2025 period.

**Department of Justice.** In 2019, DOJ committed 26 attorneys, working in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices nationwide, to cases involving domestic terrorism, at a cost of \$230,000 each. Using information provided by DOJ, CBO expects that the agency would need 25 additional U.S. attorneys to address the act's new domestic terrorism efforts. CBO estimates that the cost for those attorneys would total \$27 million over the 2021-2025 period.

**Department of Homeland Security.** Under current law, DHS's Counter Terrorism Mission Center currently dedicates 3 analysts to full-time work on domestic terrorism issues. Using information from DHS, CBO expects that the agency would need 18 additional analysts at an annual cost of roughly \$150,000 each. CBO estimates the cost for those analysts would total \$13 million over the 2021-2025 period.

In addition, H.R. 5602 would require several reports to the Congress from the FBI, DOJ, and DHS, including a recurring joint report on the incidence of domestic terrorism and another

on domestic terrorism training provided by the agencies. Finally, the act would require the agencies to form an interagency task force to analyze and combat white supremacist and neo-Nazi infiltration of the uniformed services and federal law enforcement agencies; the task force also would be required to prepare reports to the Congress. CBO estimates that the costs of the investigation and all reporting requirements would total about \$1 million across the three agencies over the 2021-2025 period. The costs of those reporting requirements and the task force are included within the costs for each agency detailed above.

**Uncertainty**

The costs of implementing the act could be higher or lower than CBO estimates, depending on decisions made by federal law enforcement officials about the number of employees and level of other resources necessary to adequately counter domestic terrorism threats identified in the future.

**Pay-As-You-Go Considerations:** None.

**Increase in Long-Term Deficits:** None.

**Mandates:** None.

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