

H.R. 6096, READI Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 15, 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	*	not estimated
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6096 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to adopt regulations to:

- Ensure subscribers to commercial mobile services receive emergency alerts from FEMA,
- Require State Emergency Communication Committees (SECCs) to review and update their Emergency Alert System (EAS) plans each year and submit those plans to the FCC for approval,
- Establish a system to collect false alert reports under the EAS or Wireless Emergency Alert System, and
- Modify the EAS to allow repeating messages from the President or FEMA while an emergency persists.

H.R. 6096 also would require the FCC to study the feasibility of providing EAS alerts through Internet-based applications.

Using information from the affected agencies, CBO estimates that it would cost the FCC \$2 million over the 2021-2025 period to implement the bill. However, because the FCC is authorized to collect fees each year sufficient to offset the appropriated costs of its regulatory activities, CBO estimates that the net cost to the FCC would be negligible, assuming appropriation actions consistent with that authority. CBO also estimates that it would cost



FEMA less than \$500,000 to assist the FCC with rulemaking, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The bill contains intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of the intergovernmental and private-sector mandates would fall below the UMRA thresholds (\$84 million and \$168 million in 2020, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

Providers of commercial mobile services would be prohibited from allowing consumers to decline emergency alerts sent by FEMA to their mobile device. That prohibition would impose a private-sector mandate. Providers of commercial mobile services currently offer the ability to decline emergency alerts from FEMA as an additional service to their customers; CBO expects the cost to eliminate that service would be small.

If the FCC increases annual fee collections to offset the costs of implementing provisions in the bill, H.R. 6096 would increase the cost of an existing private-sector mandate on entities required to pay those fees. Using information from the FCC, CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small.

The bill would require SECCs to meet annually to review and update their state's EAS Plan. Each SECC also would be required to verify their meeting with the FCC. Requirements on SECCs would impose an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate because SECCs are overseen by and composed of individuals in the public and private sectors. Because most SECCs currently meet at least annually to amend their state's EAS plans, the incremental cost of the mandate would be small.

On June 29, 2020, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 2693](#), the READI Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 13, 2019. S. 2693 would require FEMA to develop and issue guidance on how state, tribal, and local governments can participate in the integrated public alert and warning system under section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 but H.R. 6096 would not. Accordingly, CBO's estimated cost for FEMA to implement the bill is lower for H.R. 6096.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are David Hughes (for the FCC), Jon Sperl (for FEMA) and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.