

H.R. 7703, Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on July 29, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2025	2021-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	2	153	353
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?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 7703 would authorize appropriations of at least \$75 million each year over the 2021-2025 period for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, a regional foreign assistance program. Under that initiative, those funds would be used to:

- Promote citizen safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean;
- Reduce trafficking in narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband in the region;
- Combat corruption and the malign influence of authoritarian regimes such as China and Russia;
- Raise public awareness about the benefits of United States assistance programs; and
- Strengthen the ability of beneficiary countries to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Using historical spending rates of appropriations for those purposes, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost a total of \$153 million over the 2021-2025 period and \$353 million over the next 10 years, subject to appropriation of the minimum authorized amounts.

In addition, H.R. 7703 would direct the Administration to report to the Congress on its efforts to help countries in the region prepare for and respond to natural disasters and require

the Secretary of State to provide annual reports to the Congress on the progress of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

The Administration indicated that it has ongoing bilateral programs that focus on disaster response and that it would not provide additional assistance to the region under the bill. On the basis of information about similar requirements, CBO estimates that providing the required reports would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2021-2025 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 7703

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2021-2025
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Estimated Authorization	75	75	75	75	75	375
Estimated Outlays	2	14	31	48	58	153

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Caroline Dorminey. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.