

S. 2757, HELP for Small Business Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 11, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2025	2021-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	*	*	-1
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	1
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	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
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

S. 2757 would direct federal agencies to waive fines on small businesses for first-time violations of reporting requirements. Those waivers would not apply if the agency determines the violation was intended to cover criminal activity, related to tax collections, not corrected in a timely manner, or dangerous to public health and safety. Agencies would be required to track and report on the waived fines.

CBO is unaware of any comprehensive list of specific fees, fines, or penalties at a level of detail that would isolate penalties for violations of reporting requirements. The Government Accountability Office reports, however, that aggregated collections for fines, penalties, and forfeitures total tens of billions annually.

Given the wide latitude agencies have in enforcing penalties and that violators are often given a grace period to correct the violation, CBO expects that few first-time violators of paperwork rules would pay significant fines. Thus, CBO estimates that the loss of fines, which are recorded in the budget as revenues, would be insignificant in every year but would total about \$1 million over the 2021-2030 period.



CBO also estimates that satisfying the bill's reporting requirements across approximately 50 agencies would cost less than \$300,000 annually and about \$1 million over the 2021-2025 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.