

S. 4577, Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on August 3, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	25	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 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

S. 4577 would expand the definition of “plain writing” given in the Plain Writing Act of 2010 and clarify the types of federal communications to which the definition would apply. The bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance concerning plain writing in federal publications and on websites that offer information about federal operations, instructions for filing taxes, or obtaining benefits or services, for example. The bill also would establish evaluation metrics. Federal agencies would be required to implement the bill within one year of enactment.

Implementing S. 4577 would increase administrative and training expenses throughout the federal government. CBO estimates those additional costs would total about \$5 million annually and \$25 million over the 2023-2027 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting the bill could affect direct spending by some agencies that are allowed to use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible because most of them can adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs.



The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within all budget functions that contain salaries and expenses.

Table 1. Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 4577							
	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Estimated Authorization	0	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	0	5	5	5	5	5	25

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