

S. 559, Fire Grants and Safety Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 15, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
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	9,749	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 559 would reauthorize appropriations, which expire at the end of 2023, for operations of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and for two grant programs that organization administers:

- Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), which funds training and purchases of equipment and vehicles, and
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), which helps state, local, and tribal fire departments hire and retain firefighters and first responders.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$95 million each year over the 2024-2030 period for USFA’s operations. The Congress provided \$58 million for that purpose in fiscal year 2023.

The bill also would extend through 2030 the underlying formula for the authorizations of appropriations for the grant programs; those amounts are calculated by adjusting the amount authorized for 2013 (\$750 million) each year to account for inflation. After accounting for inflation, CBO estimates that S. 559 would authorize appropriations totaling \$5.3 billion for each program over the 2024-2028 period. The Congress provided \$360 million for each of them in fiscal year 2023.



In addition, S. 559 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct two audits of the USFA and report on those audits within three years of enactment. Using information from GAO about the cost of similar audits, CBO estimates that implementing those requirements would cost about \$1 million.

In total, based on historical spending patterns for USFA and the grant programs, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$9.7 billion over the 2024-2028, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 559**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
USFA Operations							
Authorization	0	95	95	95	95	95	475
Estimated Outlays	0	86	95	95	95	95	466
AFG Program							
Estimated Authorization	0	1,015	1,038	1,059	1,081	1,104	5,297
Estimated Outlays	0	609	876	997	1,068	1,091	4,641
SAFER Program							
Estimated Authorization	0	1,015	1,038	1,059	1,081	1,104	5,297
Estimated Outlays	0	609	876	997	1,068	1,091	4,641
GAO Audit and Reports							
Estimated Authorization	0	*	1	*	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	*	0	0	1
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	2,125	2,172	2,213	2,257	2,303	11,070
Estimated Outlays	0	1,304	1,848	2,089	2,231	2,277	9,749

* = between zero and \$500,000. AFG = Assistance to Firefighters Grants; GAO = Government Accountability Office; SAFER = Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response; USFA = U.S. Fire Administration.

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

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