

S. 717, Clear and Concise Content Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 29, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	1	26	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?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 717 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. 717 would increase administrative and training expenses throughout the federal government. CBO estimates those additional costs would total about \$5 million annually and \$26 million over the 2023-2028 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 budget function 800 (general government).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 717**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	1	5	5	5	5	5	26
Estimated Outlays	1	5	5	5	5	5	26

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

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