

H.R. 1734, TRANQ Research Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on March 29, 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)	*	19	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
		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.			

H.R. 1734 would require the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to research processes and techniques to identify and differentiate illicit drugs containing xylazine and other novel synthetic opioids and reduce the time necessary to analyze those drugs. In addition, the bill would require NIST to coordinate opportunities for graduate and post-graduate research on detecting and identifying those drugs. Finally, H.R. 1734 would require the agency to report to the Congress on the bill’s implementation not later than one year after enactment.

To carry out that research, the agency would need to enhance its capabilities for analyzing such drugs with specialized equipment and more employees to study those issues. NIST also would need to establish public, private, and academic partnerships to generate strategies and best practices for the safe handling, transport, and analysis of such drugs.

Using information from NIST, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1734 would cost \$19 million over the 2023-2028 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Those estimated costs comprise the following:

See also

[CBO’s Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



- New mass spectrometers and spectroscopy systems (which are used to identify the chemical composition of substances), would cost \$9 million, with the most expensive equipment purchases in 2024;
- Three scientists and two graduate students or postdoctoral researchers, at an average annual cost of \$250,000 each, would cost \$6 million;
- Two employees, to build relationships with the public, private, and academic sectors and plan annual meetings, would cost \$4 million; and
- Reporting to the Congress would cost less than \$500,000.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1734**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	*	5	3	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	*	5	3	3	4	4	19

* = between zero and \$500,000.

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

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