

H.R. 4090, Fire Grants and Safety Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on June 21, 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	7,069	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	

H.R. 4090 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.

H.R. 4090 would authorize the appropriation of \$95 million annually over the 2024-2028 period for USFA’s operations. (The Congress provided \$58 million for that purpose in fiscal year 2023.) The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$750 million annually for each grant program over the 2024-2028 period. (The Congress provided \$360 million for each program in fiscal year 2023.)

In addition, H.R. 4090 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an audit of the USFA, including barriers that prevent fire departments from accessing federal grants, and report to the Congress within three years of enactment. Using



information from GAO about the cost of similar audits, CBO estimates that implementing that requirement 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 \$7.1 billion over the 2024-2028 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized and 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 H.R. 4090

	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	750	750	750	750	750	3,750
Estimated Outlays	0	450	638	713	750	750	3,301
SAFER Program							
Estimated Authorization	0	750	750	750	750	750	3,750
Estimated Outlays	0	450	638	713	750	750	3,301
GAO Audit and Reports							
Estimated Authorization	0	*	1	*	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	*	0	0	1
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	1,595	1,596	1,595	1,595	1,595	7,976
Estimated Outlays	0	986	1,372	1,521	1,595	1,595	7,069

* = 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.

On March 17, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 559](#), the Fire Grants and Safety Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 15, 2023. The two bills are similar; however, H.R. 4090 would authorize the appropriation of lower amounts in each year over the 2024-2028 period for the two grant programs. CBO’s cost estimates reflect that difference.

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

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office