

S. 1886, Pray Safe Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on June 14, 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	13	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

S. 1886 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to publish information regarding the safety and security of faith-based organizations and houses of worship, including best practices for those entities and information on relevant federal and state grant programs. The bill would require DHS to establish and administer a website as the primary federal source for that information within nine months of enactment. The agency also would be required to designate at least one employee to assist website users and report to the Congress annually on the bill’s implementation. The bill’s requirements would sunset four years after enactment.

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted late in fiscal year 2023, and consequently, the bill’s requirements are assumed to sunset after fiscal year 2027.

Using information from DHS about similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$4 million in 2024 and \$3 million each year thereafter through 2027, for a total of \$13 million over the 2023-2028 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that approximately \$5 million would be needed for staffing over the 2023-2028 period. That estimate includes the initial cost of about 10 agency employees who would establish the website and compile information required in the bill. After 2024, CBO estimates that five employees would be needed to

See also

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



manage the website, develop content, assist users, and report to the Congress. The remaining \$8 million would be needed for other operational costs, primarily for IT services to design and maintain the website.

In addition, S. 1886 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate relevant federal programs that provide assistance to faith-based organizations and houses of worship and report to the Congress. Using information from GAO about the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing that requirement would cost less than \$500,000.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 1886**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	0	4	3	3	3	0	13
Estimated Outlays	0	4	3	3	3	*	13

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by Emily Stern, Senior Adviser for Budget Analysis.

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