

### S. 2201, American Cybersecurity Literacy Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 27, 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	130	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	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 2201 would direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to implement a multilingual campaign to increase cybersecurity literacy among the public. The bill would direct NIST to encourage people to mitigate risk by using publicly available resources. NIST also would be required to provide information on a variety of topics, including:

- How to identify phishing emails;
- The benefits of changing default passwords on hardware and software;
- How to use antivirus software, virtual private networks, and multifactor authentication;
- How to identify which devices (including home appliances and other smart devices) could pose cybersecurity risks; and
- How to limit exposure within public Wi-Fi networks.

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 S. 2201**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	0	26	27	28	29	30	140
Estimated Outlays	0	21	25	27	28	29	130

Some federal outreach activities, such as the tobacco prevention campaigns administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, cost more than \$100 million annually to implement. The costs of some others have ranged from \$10 million to \$25 million a year. On that basis, and using information from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), CBO estimates that it would cost \$130 million over the 2024-2028 period to carry out the cybersecurity literacy campaign. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The costs would include overhead, such as rent and equipment purchases, as well as hiring and training staff; engaging private contractors; and planning, advertising, and holding events.

CBO’s estimate for the costs of implementing S. 2201 is uncertain because the scope of the campaign is not known. If NIST implemented a large-scale campaign similar to the anti-tobacco efforts, the costs could be much higher. If the agency implemented a smaller scale campaign like the Department of Transportation’s effort to remind people to be safe at railroad crossings, the cost could be lower.

On April 4, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1360](#), the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on March 24, 2023. The two bills are similar, and CBO’s estimate of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Margot Berman. The estimate was reviewed by Ann E. Futrell, Senior Adviser for Budget Analysis.

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