

H.R. 6610, Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on December 13, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	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 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6610 would require the Department of State to modernize passport processing and to report to the Congress on its implementation of the bill. It also would require the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress on the passport issuance process and the department's improvements to that process.

The bill would direct the department to:

- Use information technology to streamline and automate its passport operations;
- Create an electronic platform for customers to file passport applications, track their status, and get notice about upcoming expiration dates;
- Enable Congressional offices to monitor the status of applications by their constituents; and
- Evaluate its passport issuance process using metrics that measure security, reliability, affordability, and efficiency.

CBO estimates that many of the bill's requirements will be satisfied through ongoing efforts to modernize its passport issuance process. For example, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), which was enacted on December 22, 2023,

See also

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



imposed some similar requirements on the department and provided it with greater flexibility to hire personnel.

The department collects application and processing fees to offset the costs of its passport operations; the collection and spending of those fees is subject to appropriation. CBO anticipates that the department would adjust fees as needed to meet the costs of any additional activities needed to satisfy the requirements of the bill that will not be met under current law. Thus, on net, modernizing passport operations under H.R. 6610 would have an insignificant effect on spending subject to appropriation over the 2024-2029 period, CBO estimates.

Based on the costs of similar reports, CBO estimates that satisfying the reporting requirements in the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip L. Swagel'.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office