

H.R. 6192, Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on December 5, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	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?	Yes
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6192 would amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to change the procedures for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue or revise its energy and water conservation standards for various appliances and equipment.

Primarily, the bill would:

- Eliminate DOE’s requirement to periodically update energy conservation standards and instead authorize DOE to amend those standards on an as needed basis;
- Establish a new process for the public to petition that specific energy conservation standards should be revoked or revised, under conditions specified in the bill; and
- Amend the criteria for determining whether an energy conservation standard is economically justified.

Federal Costs

Implementing H.R. 6192 could affect DOE’s spending on activities related to regulating energy conservation standards, which is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Implementing the bill could increase such costs by requiring DOE to review petitions to revoke standards and regularly evaluate whether those standards are economically justified.

See also

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



DOE's costs to regulate the affected products also could decrease if the department chooses to update energy conservation standards less often than under current law. Accordingly, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6192 would change spending subject to appropriation on net by less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period. In 2023, DOE allocated \$60 million to regulate standards for appliances and equipment.

Currently, there are more than 30 energy conservation standards in the regulatory review process. CBO cannot predict how any of those proposed regulations would be affected by H.R. 6192; however, if the bill's requirements change how DOE implements those rules, that could slow demand for the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program. (That program is classified as direct spending in the budget.) CBO expects that any slowdown in demand for the rebates would not change the total amount of rebates taken over the life of the program. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6192 would reduce direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period but would not affect total direct spending over the 2024-2034 period.

Mandates

H.R. 6192 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by prohibiting state and local governments from enforcing their own energy and water conservation standards on the manufacturers of appliances previously regulated by DOE. CBO estimates the cost of the mandate would not result in additional expenditures or losses in revenue, and therefore, would not exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$100 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill would not impose private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Aaron Krupkin (for federal costs) and Brandon Lever (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

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