

H.R. 7109, Equal Representation Act

As reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability on April 29, 2024

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. 7109 would require the Census Bureau to add a question on the citizenship status of each member of a household as part of the decennial census. The bill also would require noncitizens to be excluded from the population count used to determine the apportionment of representatives among states in the U.S. House of Representatives. The next decennial census, designed to count every resident in the United States, will occur in 2030.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 7109 would cost the Census Bureau less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period to prepare for the 2030 census. Any related spending would be subject to appropriation.

Using information from the Census Bureau, CBO anticipates that adding a citizenship question to the decennial census would reduce the number of initial respondents. On that basis, CBO expects that the Census Bureau would need to hire additional staff to conduct follow-up interviews to account for the lower number of responses to the initial survey. Most of the costs for additional staff would occur beginning in 2030, which is beyond the current six-year budget window that CBO typically uses to estimate spending subject to appropriation. In addition, the Census Bureau has not finalized any plans for conducting the 2030 census, so CBO has no way to determine the magnitude of those increased costs.

See also

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



Finally, a lower response rate among different states could affect the amount or distribution of funding for some federal programs that are based on population counts. Any changes in spending for those programs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that curves upwards and to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office