

H.R. 3254, First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on July 31, 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)	0	*	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 zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3254 would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications for grants to purchase equipment that does not meet or exceed certain voluntary standards. The act also would require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to assess and report on FEMA’s implementation of the new review process.

Under current law, FEMA provides grants to help state, local, and tribal governments to develop their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism. Equipment purchased using such grants must meet voluntary standards, developed by FEMA in coordination with appropriate federal agencies, the National Advisory Council, and private entities. Requests to use grants to purchase equipment that does not meet such standards, or for which no such standards exist, are subject to further review and approval by FEMA.

According to information provided by FEMA, grant recipients rarely request permission to purchase equipment that does not at least meet current standards or for which standards do not exist. As a result, CBO expects that any administrative costs to implement, assess, and report on the proposed process for reviewing such requests would not be significant; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.



On June 6, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 3254](#), the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security, on May 17, 2023. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimated costs are the same for both versions of the legislation.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip L. Swagel" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office