

H.R. 8234, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport agents, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 16, 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	*	*
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. 8234 would make certain changes to the Department of State’s processing of applications for U.S. passports. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in 2025.

Under the bill, the department would:

- Allow notaries who are U.S. citizens and employed by reputable institutions to accept passport applications,
- Expand opportunities for applicants to use courier services to submit passport applications and receive new passports, and
- Use the month and day of the applicant’s birthday as the expiration date for new passports.

CBO estimates that implementing those changes would increase costs of the department’s passport operations. Those costs would stem from screening and training notaries as passport acceptance agents and expanding the use of courier services in underserved areas, as well as



from modifications to its data systems and processes to change the expiration date for new passports.

The Department of State collects fees to offset the costs of its passport operations; the collection and spending of those fees are subject to appropriation. CBO anticipates that the department would adjust fees as needed to cover the costs of satisfying the requirements of the bill. Thus, on net, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 8234 would have an insignificant net effect on spending subject to appropriation over the 2024-2029 period.

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', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office