

**S. 3496, United States Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Act**

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on February 10, 2026

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars		2026	2026-2031	2026-2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)		0	0	0
Revenues		0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit		0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)		*	8	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?		No
	<b>Mandate Effects</b>			
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?		No
		Contains private-sector mandate?		No
* = between zero and \$500,000.				

S. 3496 would direct the Department of State to develop and implement a strategy to curb illegal gold mining in the Western Hemisphere. The department would be required to report to the Congress on those actions. The bill also would require the department to investigate and report to the Congress on illicit gold mining in Venezuela. Finally, S. 3496 would direct the Department of State to work with democratically elected governments in South America to establish a public-private partnership to bring small-scale gold mining operations into compliance with environmental and labor laws.

On the basis of information from the Department of State, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase the department's workload by the equivalent of five full-time employees. Using information from the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget about federal employee salaries and benefits and about non-salary costs, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3496 would cost \$8 million over the 2026-2031 period (see Table 1). Such spending would be subject to the appropriation of the estimated amounts.

See also

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



The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 3496**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2026-2031
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	
	<b>Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation</b>						
Estimated Authorization	*	1	1	2	2	2	8
Estimated Outlays	*	1	1	2	2	2	8

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.



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