



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 18, 2017

S. 754

Cyber Scholarship Opportunities Act of 2017

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on August 2, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 754 would authorize the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to develop and implement a pilot program at between 5 to 10 community colleges to provide scholarships to eligible students pursuing an associate's degree in cybersecurity under the CyberCorps Scholarship-for-Service (CyberCorps SFS) program. The bill also would permanently extend support for cybersecurity education in primary and secondary schools, modify the evaluation and reporting requirements for the CyberCorps SFS program, and require the NSF and OPM to develop and maintain online resources for prospective scholarship recipients.

Based on information provided by the NSF on existing program costs, CBO estimates that implementing S. 754 would cost \$6 million over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 754 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 754 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 754 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general space, science, and technology).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | | | 2017-2022 |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| INCREASE IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Spending Subject to Appropriation

For this estimate, CBO assumes the legislation would be enacted at the beginning of fiscal year 2018 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year.

Community College Pilot Program. Under current law, community college students are eligible for CyberCorps SFS scholarships if their college is a partner to a participating four-year institution that agrees to transfer scholarship recipients in order to complete a bachelor’s degree. According to the NSF, the average annual award for those scholarship recipients is \$46,000 each year. For this estimate, CBO expects the pilot program would commence in 2018, span three years, and support a total of 30 students pursuing associate’s degrees. Over the 2018-2022 period, CBO estimates that the community college pilot program would cost \$3 million. That amount includes administrative costs associated with the program. In 2016, the NSF spent \$6 million on the CyberCorps SFS program for students pursuing a master’s or bachelor’s degree in cybersecurity.

Evaluation and Reporting Requirements and Online Resources. S. 754 would require the NSF and OPM to evaluate and report information on the success of recruiting and job placement efforts related to scholarship recipients. The bill also would require the NSF and OPM to develop and maintain online resources on cybersecurity careers for prospective scholarship recipients. Based on an analysis of information provided by the NSF, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$600,000 annually, and \$3 million over the 2018-2022 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 754 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 754 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Janani Shankaran

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Jon Sperl

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis