

H.R. 1392, Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on March 25, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 1392 would prohibit the Administration from approving sales of defense articles or transferring such items to the government of Saudi Arabia for a period of 120 days following enactment. That prohibition would be extended for subsequent periods (for a total of three years) unless the President certifies to the Congress that the Saudi government is not violating the human rights of dissidents or detainees. The bill would exempt articles used to defend Saudi Arabia or the U.S. military in that country and also would authorize the President to waive that prohibition in the interest of national security. Finally, the bill would require the Administration to report to the Congress on the repression of critics and dissidents by the Saudi government.

The Department of Defense transfers many defense articles and services to foreign countries through the Foreign Military Sales Program. Those countries pay all costs associated with such sales, and the amounts received are available for obligation without further appropriation. CBO estimates that the loss of receipts from any arms sales that would be delayed or forgone under H.R. 1392 would be offset by the reduction in spending of those receipts and thus would have no net effect on direct spending over time.

On the basis of information about similar requirements, CBO estimates that providing the required reports would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2021-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.