

## H.R. 1251, Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
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	110	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
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

H.R. 1251 would codify the Department of State’s plans to establish a bureau of cyberspace policy. It also would establish a committee to coordinate cyberspace policy within the department. Under the bill, the bureau would have broad responsibilities related to cyberspace, including cybersecurity, Internet access, Internet freedom, and the digital economy. H.R. 1251 also would require the Government Accountability Office to assess and report to the Congress on the department’s organizational structure (including the new bureau) and its efforts to promote U.S. cyberspace policy. Lastly, the bill would require the department to report to the Congress on various aspects of cyberspace policy.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1251 would cost \$110 million over the 2021-2026 period; such spending would be subject to the appropriation of the estimated amounts (see Table 1).

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1251**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2021-2026
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Estimated Authorization	0	22	23	24	25	26	122
Estimated Outlays	0	15	21	23	24	25	110

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

In June 2019, the department notified the Congress that it intended to create a new bureau focused on cybersecurity by expanding the roles and responsibilities of an existing office. That bureau would have the equivalent of 80 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$21 million. In January 2021, former Secretary Pompeo directed the department to establish the bureau. On the basis of information from that notification and after adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that establishing the new bureau would require annual appropriations averaging \$24 million and would cost a total of \$108 million over the 2021-2026 period.

Using information about the costs of reports and committees similar to those that would be required by the bill, CBO estimates that satisfying the reporting requirements and implementing a policy coordination committee as required in H.R. 1251 would cost less than \$500,000 each year and total \$2 million over the 2021-2026 period.

There is some uncertainty about those estimated costs. The Biden Administration is reviewing the structure and mission of the new bureau and could modify the plan to create it. Any changes could affect its staffing and operating costs. Additionally, costs could be lower than CBO estimates if the department reassigns existing staff and resources to the new bureau.

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