

## H.R. 4349, Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on October 26, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
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	10	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. 4349 would authorize in statute the existing Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The bill specifies responsibilities for the office, including overseeing DHS’s compliance with current civil rights laws and integrating those laws into its activities. H.R. 4349 also would require each operational component within DHS to have an officer for civil rights and civil liberties. Finally, the bill would require the office to assess the effects of DHS’s regulations on civil rights and civil liberties.

Although DHS already carries out many of the bill’s requirements, H.R. 4349 would broaden some responsibilities and require DHS to undertake new activities. In total, CBO estimates implementing the bill would cost \$10 million over the 2022-2026 period, as shown in Table 1. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The costs of the legislation fall in budget function 750 (administration of justice).



**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 4349**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2022-2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Estimated Authorization	0	2	3	3	3	11
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	3	3	10

Using information from the department, CBO expects that DHS would need 20 full-time equivalent employees to carry out the requirements of the bill. At an average cost of \$152,000 per employee, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$7 million over the 2022-2026 period.

In addition, H.R. 4349 would require DHS to report periodically to the Congress about its investigations of abuses of civil rights and civil liberties, among other topics. The Government Accountability Office also would be required to report on DHS’s engagement of communities whose members’ civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by its activities. CBO estimates that meeting those reporting requirements would cost \$3 million over the 2022-2026 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.