

## S. 3211, Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2022

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 14, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	1	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

The authorization for the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking expired on October 7, 2021. S. 3211 would permanently reauthorize that task force, which has continued to operate and fulfill ongoing responsibilities under an Executive Order for combating wildlife trafficking. Therefore, CBO estimates that extending its authorization would not affect the federal budget.

The bill also would require the task force to collaborate with the private sector, foreign governments, and other entities to expand the use of technology to deter wildlife trafficking and to consider initiatives to address the illegal trade in wildlife on digital platforms. In its 2021 report to the Congress, the task force indicated that federal entities are increasing their efforts to coordinate with the private sector to address trafficking, including online trafficking. Thus, many of the bill's requirements are being met under current law.

On the basis of information from the Administration, CBO estimates that other provisions of the bill would cost less than \$500,000 each year and total \$1 million over the 2022-2027 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Those provisions would:

- Require the task force to provide periodic reports on its efforts,

- Broaden the Department of State’s vetting of foreign security forces to determine their eligibility for foreign assistance, and
- Authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to issue administrative subpoenas for inspections or investigations relating to certain wildlife.

According to information provided by USFWS, CBO expects the agency would rarely use that administrative subpoena authority. However, in any instances where a person refuses to comply with a subpoena, civil or criminal penalties could apply. Therefore, the government might collect additional fines under the legislation. Civil fines are recorded in the budget as revenues. Criminal fines are also recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and spent without appropriation. Because CBO expects that few people would be fined for defying subpoenas, we estimate that both revenues and direct spending would increase by insignificant amounts over the 2022-2032 period. On net, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would reduce the deficit by an insignificant amount.

On May 9, 2022, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1546](#), the Combating Online Wildlife Trafficking Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 16, 2022. S. 3211 is similar to H.R. 1546; however, the Senate bill also would authorize USFWS to issue subpoenas and broaden the department’s vetting of foreign security forces. CBO’s estimate of the budgetary effects of implementing S. 3211 reflects that difference.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Sunita D’Monte (for international affairs programs) and Lilia Ledezma (for natural resources and the environment). The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.