

H.R. 4209, DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on September 28, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2027	2023-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	1	2	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 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 4209 would require Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop a strategic plan for identifying and remediating cross-border tunnels into the United States within 180 days of the act's enactment. The plan would include ways of using technology and sharing information to identify and block tunnels as well as an assessment of staffing needs. The act would require CBP to submit a report on implementation to the Congress one year after the development of the plan.

H.R. 4209 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for CBP to develop the strategic plan and carry out tunnel remediation operations. Using historical patterns of spending for similar programs and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates CBP would spend \$2 million over the 2023-2027 period to implement the act.

H.R. 4209 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On November 5, 2021, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 4209](#), the DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on



Homeland Security on July 28, 2021. The pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are similar.

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