

S. 1340, Ebola Eradication Act of 2019

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 3, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	70	70
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 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 1340 would require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide certain foreign assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to address the recent Ebola outbreak. Under current law, the United States can provide humanitarian assistance such as medical supplies to the DRC. However, it is prohibited from providing other foreign assistance such as support for medical personnel, community outreach programs, and infrastructure improvements to that country because its government does not meet the minimum standards to combat human trafficking as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). While the Administration may waive that restriction, it has not done so.

Before the TVPA restrictions were applied to the DRC in 2018, USAID provided an average of \$130 million annually over the previous five years for health-related assistance to that country. Under the bill, CBO estimates that the agency would use about 50 percent of that amount for foreign assistance to address the Ebola outbreak in the eastern region of the DRC. CBO expects the other 50 percent would be for purposes unrelated to Ebola in the western region of the country; USAID would not be required to provide that assistance as a result of enacting this bill. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1340 would cost \$70 million over the 2020-2024 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds (see Table 1).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 1340

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	0	70	0	0	0	0	70
Estimated Outlays	0	20	35	15	0	0	70

This estimate is uncertain primarily because it is not clear what requirements would be established for health-related assistance provided to the DRC. Other factors that may contribute to the estimate’s uncertainty include the unstable security situation in that country, community resistance to vaccinations, inadequate infrastructure, outbreaks of other infectious diseases (such as malaria, cholera, and measles), and movement of the population across borders. CBO also cannot predict whether the Administration will waive the restrictions on foreign assistance to the DRC.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ann E. Futrell. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.