

H.R. 4802, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State’s rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 30, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
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	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 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 4802 would authorize the Department of State to offer rewards for information about the identity or location of individuals and entities that defy sanctions imposed by the United States or the United Nations.

Since the mid-1980s, the department has awarded more than \$250 million under several reward programs for information leading to the arrest or conviction of designated terrorists and criminals engaged in human trafficking, smuggling, and other transnational crimes. Most awards range between \$1 million and \$5 million. Many of the individuals and entities designated under those programs are also subject to sanctions; CBO expects that the authority provided under the bill would be implemented through those programs.

To the extent that the bill would allow the department to offer and pay more rewards, implementing H.R. 4802 would increase spending subject to appropriation; however, it is uncertain whether and when the department would do so. On the basis of information about past awards—averaging about \$7 million each year—CBO estimates that under H.R. 4802 the department would pay less than \$500,000, on average, in additional awards in any given

year and a total of \$1 million over the 2020-2024 period. That spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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