

H.R. 4507, Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2020

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 1, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2025	2021-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 4507 would prohibit the Administration from approving sales of defense articles to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or transferring such items to that country unless the President can certify to the Congress that the Saudi government is not suppressing or threatening dissidents. The bill would authorize the President to waive that requirement in the interest of national security. Finally, the bill would require the Administration to report to the Congress on various aspects of the Saudi government’s repression of critics and dissidents.

The Department of Defense transfers many defense articles and services to foreign countries through the Foreign Military Sales Program. Those countries pay all costs associated with such sales, and the amounts received are available for obligation without further appropriation. CBO estimates that the loss of receipts from any arms sales that would be delayed or forgone under H.R. 4507 would be offset by the reduction in spending of those receipts and thus would have no net effect on direct spending over time.

On the basis of information about similar requirements, CBO estimates that providing the required reports would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2021-2025 period. Such 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 Director of Budget Analysis.