

S. 807, Cameras in the Courtroom Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 24, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 807 would require the Supreme Court of the United States to permit television coverage of all open sessions held by the court, unless the Court decides, by a vote of the majority of justices, that allowing such coverage in a particular case would violate the due process rights of one or more of the parties. The Supreme Court does not currently record or allow others to record video of its sessions.

Based on the Court's activity over the past five years, CBO expects that the Court would hold public sessions about 50 days each year and that most televised hours would cover oral arguments, which typically last two hours. Using information provided by the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) about the cost of cameras and other equipment necessary for televised broadcasts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$2 million over the 2022-2026 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that the Court would incur costs of about \$500,000 in 2022 to install a camera and recording system capable of televised coverage. In addition, CBO expects the Court would need three technical staff on days the Court is in open session and one full-time digital archivist, at an estimated annual cost of about \$200,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.