

S. 2699, American Cybersecurity Literacy Act of 2021

As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on December 17, 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)	*	98	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
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 2699 would direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to implement a campaign to increase cybersecurity literacy among the public. The bill would direct NIST to encourage people to mitigate risk by using publicly available resources. NIST also would be required to provide information on a variety of topics, including:

- How to identify phishing emails;
- The benefits of changing default passwords on hardware and software;
- How to use anti-virus software, firewalls, and multi-factor authentication;
- How to identify which devices (including home appliances and other smart devices) could pose cybersecurity risks; and
- How to limit exposure within public Wi-Fi networks.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2699

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2022-2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Estimated Authorization	*	25	26	27	28	106
Estimated Outlays	*	20	25	26	27	98

* = between zero and \$500,000.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2699 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2022. Some federal outreach activities, such as the tobacco prevention campaigns administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, cost more than \$100 million annually to implement. The costs of some others have ranged from \$10 million to \$25 million a year. On that basis, and using information from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) about the potential cost of a similar campaign, CBO estimates that it would cost \$98 million over the 2022-2026 period to carry out the cybersecurity literacy campaign. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The costs would include overhead, such as rent and equipment purchases, as well as hiring and training staff; engaging private contractors; and planning, advertising, and holding events.

CBO’s estimate for the costs of implementing S. 2699 is uncertain because the scope of the campaign is not known. If NIST implemented a large-scale campaign similar to the anti-tobacco efforts, the costs could be much higher. If the agency implemented a smaller-scale campaign like the Department of Transportation’s effort to remind people to be safe at railroad crossings, the cost could be lower.

On April 19, 2022, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 4055](#), the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on December 1, 2021. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO’s estimates of their budgetary effects are the same. Unlike S. 2699, H.R. 4055 would require NTIA to administer the cybersecurity literacy campaign.

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