

H.R. 5460, Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2022

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 6, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 5460 would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to waive visa requirements for foreign visitors from certain Caribbean countries who are seeking to enter the U.S. Virgin Islands for a stay of up to 45 days. DHS would need to consult with the Departments of the Interior and State and the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands to determine whether it has developed adequate arrival and departure control systems to ensure the waiver would not threaten the security of the United States. Countries deemed to threaten security or that increase fraud or abuse of the nonimmigrant waiver system would be excluded from the waiver program established in the bill.

CBO expects that enacting the bill would decrease revenues because fewer people would require visas issued by the Department of State. Although most visa fees are retained by the department and spent without further appropriation, some fees are recorded as revenues and deposited into the Treasury. The bill would direct DHS within one year of enactment to establish an administrative processing fee to be collected from foreign visitors seeking to enter the U.S. Virgin Islands under the visa waiver program. The fee, which would be recorded as a revenue would be set at a level to recoup processing costs and offset reduced collections of the nonimmigrant visa fee or electronic travel authorization fee that would otherwise be collected from foreign visitors. CBO estimates that, on net, those changes would result in an insignificant increase in revenues in each year and over the 2022-2032 period.



As part of implementing the new fee, DHS would be required to consult with other federal agencies. Using information from DHS about the costs of promulgating similar rules, CBO estimates that the agencies' costs to implement the requirements would not be significant; spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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