

S. 3502, Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 2, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	9	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 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3502 would rename the Office of Equal Rights within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion and would require the office to undertake additional activities with respect to disaster assistance for underserved communities. Specifically, the bill would require the office to:

- Develop more comprehensive measures to evaluate the effectiveness of disaster assistance provided to underserved communities,
- Establish an initiative to award grants to nonprofit entities that serve those communities,
- Coordinate with other federal agencies and other interested parties to improve the provision of disaster assistance to people with disabilities; and
- Report to the Congress every two years on the results of the new measures and on allegations of unequal disaster assistance investigated by the office.

S. 3502 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary to implement the legislation.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).



**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 3502**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Estimated Authorization	0	1	2	3	4	6	16
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	2	3	3	9

* = between zero and \$500,000.

In fiscal year 2022, FEMA allocated about \$7 million for the office, which employs 31 staff. Using information from the agency about the activities it currently performs, CBO estimates that the office would require the equivalent of three additional staff at annual cost of about \$160,000 each to implement the new requirements in the bill.

The bill also would require FEMA to make grants to nonprofit entities to help with disaster assistance to underserved communities. CBO expects that FEMA would promulgate regulations for those grants in 2023 and gradually increase the number and amount of grants awarded over the next five years. Using information on historical patterns of spending for similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3502 would cost \$9 million over 2022-2027 period, mostly for the costs of grants, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

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