



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

September 25, 2018

**H.R. 5896**  
**Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Amendments Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform on May 23, 2018*

H.R. 5896 would change the calculation of overtime compensation for agents of the border patrol in Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Specifically, the bill would increase—by up to 14 hours for each pay period—the overtime compensation available to agents who handle canines. That change would take effect 90 days after enactment.

Currently about 900 canine handlers work in the border patrol. Using information from CBP, CBO expects that implementing H.R. 5896 would increase pay for each handler by about \$14,000 per year, on average. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$10 million in fiscal year 2019 and about \$13 million annually thereafter, assuming enactment near the end of 2018 and appropriation of the necessary amounts. Most of the bill's other changes to overtime pay could result in small costs or savings to CBP.

H.R. 5896 also would affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill would set a limit on the amount of overtime that can be credited toward retirement for border patrol agents during their control period (the three years leading up to eligibility for retirement). Enacting the bill would probably affect direct spending for retirement benefits and revenues related to retirement contributions made by CBP agents but, based on information from the agency, CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant over the 2019-2028 period.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5896 would not significantly affect direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 5896 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Amber Marcelino (for retirement effects) and Mark Grabowicz (for other effects). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.