



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

June 18, 2014

**S. 2022  
Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2014**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on April 9, 2014*

**SUMMARY**

S. 2022 would establish the Forensic Science Research Initiative to improve, expand, and coordinate federal research in the forensic sciences. Under the initiative, selected agencies would be directed to undertake activities designed to improve the validity and reliability of forensic science (FS) practices. (FS encompasses both basic and applied research and its application to recognize, evaluate, and analyze evidence for use in investigations and legal proceedings.)

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2022 would cost \$101 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2022 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 2022 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	28	31	15	15	16	104
Estimated Outlays	22	29	18	15	16	101

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

S. 2022 would establish the Forensic Science Research Initiative to improve, expand, and coordinate federal research in FS and to develop a strategy that directs research efforts to improve the validity and reliability of FS practices.

The bill would create a coordinating office to develop the research strategy, a national commission to provide advice to federal agencies implementing the new research strategy, a center of excellence to improve standards of practice in the forensic sciences, and new research centers to conduct basic research and encourage efforts to apply the research to practical use in the forensic sciences.

S. 2022 would authorize the appropriation of \$28 million over fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to coordinate the development of new voluntary standards for FS and to test and validate existing standards, measurements, and methods.

Based on information from the agencies that would be affected by the legislation, including NIST, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), CBO estimates that implementing S. 2022 would cost \$101 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and necessary amounts. Much of that amount, about \$68 million, would be spent by NIST to develop new standards and test existing standards in the forensic sciences, to establish a new center of excellence, and to undertake efforts to improve the practice of forensic science in the United States. The balance of the costs would be borne by OSTP, NSF, and DOJ to support the coordinating office and research centers, and to fund research and other efforts to improve FS practices.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2022 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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