

## H.R. 3162, Protecting American Voters Act

As reported by the House Committee on House Administration on February 14, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	*	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3162 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide free of charge the citizenship status of any person applying to register or who is registered to vote in a federal election to state election officials who request that information. The bill also would require DHS to promulgate regulations to implement the requirements.

Under current law, states may verify a person’s citizenship for the purposes of voting through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program, which is administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within DHS. USCIS currently charges \$0.50 for each SAVE inquiry to offset its costs; the agency can adjust that amount by regulation. Those fees are treated as reductions in direct spending and can be spent without further appropriation.

According to state election personnel, SAVE requires users to submit information for each inquiry that those election agencies typically do not collect, such as a numeric identifier from an immigration document issued by the federal government for naturalized citizens. In 2023, four states submitted a total of 4,100 requests for verification, or less than 1 percent of the total number of requests submitted to the program. On that basis, CBO expects that requiring

See also

[CBO’s Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



DHS to provide the service free of charge would not significantly increase requests from state election agencies.

CBO assumes that USCIS would increase user fees for the SAVE program to offset the cost of freely providing information to state election agencies. Because those fees can be spent, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

CBO expects that SSA would enter into an agreement to share data on citizenship with USCIS to respond to requests from state election agencies. (SSA began recording citizenship data in 1981 and collects that data when issuing Social Security cards.) Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that it would cost SSA and DHS less than \$500,000 to implement the bill and promulgate regulations. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jeremy Crimm (for the Department of Homeland Security) and Noah Meyerson (for the Social Security Administration). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip L. Swagel', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel  
Director, Congressional Budget Office