

At a Glance

Five Bills, as Reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 10, 2024

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce reported five bills related to energy conservation standards for specified appliances. This comprehensive document provides estimates for those bills.

Bill	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2024-2029 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2024-2034 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation Over the 2024-2029 Period (Outlays, Millions of Dollars)	Mandate Effects?
H.R. 7626	*	0	*	No
H.R. 7637	*	0	*	No
H.R. 7645	*	0	*	No
H.R. 7673	*	0	*	No
H.R. 7700	*	0	*	No

* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.

On April 10, 2024, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce reported five bills aimed at changing the procedures that the Department of Energy (DOE) uses to issue, revise, and enforce energy conservation standards for certain household appliances:

- H.R. 7626, the Affordable Air Conditioning Act;
- H.R. 7637, the Refrigerator Freedom Act;
- H.R. 7645, the Clothes Dryer Reliability Act;
- H.R. 7673, the Liberty in Laundry Act; and
- H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

Each bill would prohibit DOE from issuing, updating, or enforcing energy conservation standards for the affected appliances unless the standards are determined by the department to be technologically feasible, economically justified, unlikely to increase net costs for consumers, and to provide significant energy savings.

Implementing each of the bills would affect DOE's cost of regulatory activities related to appliances by less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period. In 2023, the department allocated \$60 million for those activities, including \$5 million for enforcement. The estimated costs do not include any interaction effects among the pieces of legislation. If all five bills were combined and enacted as a single piece of legislation, the estimated costs



could be different than the sum of the separate estimates, although CBO expects that any difference would be small.

DOE's costs would increase under each bill if the department needed to reissue an energy conservation standard for an appliance that otherwise would not meet the specified requirements. Alternatively, the costs of regulating the affected products could decrease if the legislation prohibited the department's enforcement of certain standards.

CBO cannot predict whether any current or proposed standards would be affected by the five pieces of legislation. However, if the bills' requirements changed DOE's implementation of those standards, demand could slow for the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program or the Home Efficiency Rebates program. (Outlays under those programs are classified as direct spending in the budget.) CBO expects, however, that any slowdown in demand would not change the total amount that would be taken in rebates over the life of either program. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting each of the bills would reduce direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period but would not affect total direct spending over the 2024-2034 period.

The CBO staff contact for these estimates is Aaron Krupkin. The estimates were reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

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