

Calendar No. 205

117TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
117-111 }

COVID-19 HOME SAFETY ACT OF 2021

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ON

S. 116



MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022.—Ordered to be printed

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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COVID-19 HOME SAFETY ACT OF 2021

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022.—ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 116]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to which was referred the bill (S. 116) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to submit to Congress and make publicly available, within 3 months of the bill's enactment and every 3 months thereafter while the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency continues, a report on the effect of the COVID-19 public health emergency on injuries and deaths from consumer products. The CPSC must also collaborate with public media outlets to distribute resource information for increasing home safety during the COVID-19 public health emergency, based on the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has led many Americans to spend more time at home. A November 2020 study from the Injury Epidemiology journal found that 26 percent of respondents reported a household injury between March and June 2020. This represents a

large increase from a 2017 national survey, in which only 14 percent of respondents reported a household injury.¹ As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is important to better understand how lifestyle changes may impact consumer safety, as well as what can be done to better protect consumers from product safety risks.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 116 was introduced by Senator Klobuchar (for herself and Senator Moran) on January 28, 2021, and was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. On May 12, 2021, the Committee met in open Executive Session and, by voice vote, ordered S. 116 reported favorably with amendments. On May 18, 2021, Senators Wicker and Blumenthal joined as cosponsors to S. 116.

ESTIMATED COSTS

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2021.

Hon. MARIA CANTWELL,
Chairwoman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 116, the COVID-19 Home Safety Act of 2021.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Ryan Greenfield.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

¹Sumathi Reddy, "Strains, Sprains, and Pinched Nerves: Injuries at Home Are on the Rise," *Wall Street Journal*, April 19, 2021 (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/strains-sprains-and-pinched-nerves-injuries-at-home-are-on-the-rise-11618833605>).

S. 116, COVID–19 Home Safety Act of 2021			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 12, 2021			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
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	*	[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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 116 would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to report to the Congress every three months on injuries and deaths from consumer products related to the COVID–19 public health emergency. The bill also would direct CPSC to coordinate with public media outlets to distribute information from those reports to improve home safety. Based on information from CPSC and the cost of similar studies, CBO estimates that implementing S. 116 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2021–2026 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ryan Greenfield. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Because S. 116 does not create any new programs, the legislation will have no additional regulatory impact, and will result in no additional reporting requirements. The legislation will have no further effect on the number or types of individuals and businesses regulated, the economic impact of such regulation, the personal privacy of affected individuals, or the paperwork required from such individuals and businesses.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

In compliance with paragraph 4(b) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides that no provisions contained in the bill, as reported, meet the definition of congressionally directed spending items under the rule.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title.

This section provides that the bill may be cited as the “COVID–19 Home Safety Act of 2021”.

Section 2. Report.

Paragraph (a) directs the CPSC, no later than 3 months after the bill’s enactment and every 3 months thereafter for the duration of

the COVID–19 public health emergency, to submit to Congress and make publicly available a report on the effect of the COVID–19 public health emergency on injuries and deaths from consumer products.

Paragraph (b) requires that the report include the following: (1) a list of the top consumer products, prioritizing products associated with the highest risk of injury or death during the COVID–19 emergency; (2) identification of trends in injuries and deaths in the previously listed products from time periods before and during the COVID–19 emergency; (3) identification of subpopulations, such as minorities and infants, that have faced increased risk of injury or death from the listed products during the COVID–19 emergency; (4) identification of where most injuries and deaths from consumer products during the COVID–19 emergency are occurring, such as the types of buildings or outdoor environments; (5) whether any listed products are under recall or other corrective action, or are subject to a voluntary or mandatory consumer product safety standard; (6) identification of any emerging consumer products or product categories that pose new risks to consumers; and (7) a comprehensive assessment of the CPSC’s operations, re-entry criteria, operational readiness, enforcement efforts, and corrective action taken during the COVID–19 emergency, along with recommendations to improve the CPSC’s ability to address unforeseen effects of the COVID–19 emergency on consumer product safety.

Paragraph (c) requires the CPSC to work with public media outlets to disseminate information based on the report to help increase home safety during the COVID–19 emergency.

Paragraph (d) defines the term “COVID–19 public health emergency” as a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act² “as a result of confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID–19),” including any renewal thereof.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that the bill as reported would make no change to existing law.

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²42 U.S.C. 247d.