

H.R. 554, Saudi Educational Transparency and Reform Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 30, 2019

| By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars | 2020 | 2020-2024 | 2020-2029 |
|--|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Direct Spending (Outlays) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) | * | * | 1 |
| 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 2030? | No | Contains intergovernmental mandate? | No |
| | | Contains private-sector mandate? | No |
| * = between zero and \$500,000. | | | |

H.R. 554 would require the Department of State to review educational materials published by the government of Saudi Arabia to determine whether they encourage intolerance or violence against religions other than Islam or against Muslims who hold dissenting views. The department also would be required to report each year to the Congress on:

- The Saudi government’s actions to remove such content from educational materials, retrain teachers, and revise manuals used by teachers;
- The use of those materials in schools outside Saudi Arabia; and
- The department’s use of waiver authority in penalizing Saudi Arabia as a country that violates religious freedom.

On the basis of information about the cost to prepare similar reports, CBO estimates that satisfying the bill’s reporting requirement would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2020-2024 period and \$1 million over the 2020-2029 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D’Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.