

H.R. 1819, War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act

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	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 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

The Department of State uses appropriated funds to offer cash awards of up to \$5 million through its War Crimes Rewards Program for information leading to the arrest or conviction of designated individuals accused by international tribunals of committing war crimes, genocide, or crimes against humanity. H.R. 1819 would authorize the department to also offer awards for information leading to the prosecution of such crimes under the laws and statutes of the United States and other nations.

To the extent that the bill would allow the department to offer and pay more rewards, implementing H.R. 1819 would increase spending subject to appropriation; however, it is uncertain whether and when the department would do so. On the basis of information about similar reward programs, CBO estimates that under H.R. 1819 the department would pay less than \$500,000, on average, in additional awards in any given year and a total of \$1 million over the 2020-2024 period. That 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.