

H.R. 149, Housing Fairness Act of 2020

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Financial Services on February 28, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
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	207	541
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 149 would authorize the appropriation of \$58 million annually over the 2021-2025 period and \$70 million annually from 2026 through 2031 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make grants to states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to prevent discriminatory housing practices through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program. (In 2020, the Congress provided \$46 million to the program.)

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million annually over the 2021-2025 period for a competitive grant program for nonprofits to study the causes and effects of housing discrimination and to implement pilot projects to test approaches to preventing discrimination. Finally, the bill would require HUD to study the feasibility and effectiveness of converting the Fair Housing Initiatives Program into a noncompetitive, entitlement program.

Most of the authorized amounts would be allocated for activities carried out by nonprofit organizations to enforce laws against discrimination in housing, as well as for education and outreach efforts. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$207 million over the 2021-2025 period, \$541 million over the 2021-2030 period, and \$195 million after 2030, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. That estimate is based on historical spending patterns for the programs and on information from the department.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall under budget function 750 (administration of justice).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 149**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Fair Housing Initiatives Program							
Authorization ^a	0	58	58	58	58	58	290
Estimated Outlays	0	1	22	48	58	58	187
Grant Program to Study Housing Discrimination							
Authorization	0	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	5	5	5	19
Study							
Estimated Authorization	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	64	63	63	63	63	316
Estimated Outlays	0	3	25	53	63	63	207

a. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$70 million annually from 2026 through 2031 for this program.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.