

H.R. 1924, Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 6, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	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.			

H.R. 1924 would increase the number of first-time offenders who could have their records expunged following a conviction for simple drug possession. Under current law, people who are found guilty of a simple drug possession offense under federal law can be ordered by a judge to undergo a period of probation, rather than being charged with a crime, if they have not previously been convicted of a drug offense under federal or state law. Offenders who successfully complete the probation program, and who were under the age of 21 at the time the offense was committed, can then apply for expungement of their federal record.

H.R. 1924 would allow any first-time offender convicted of simple possession who completes the federal probation program to have their record expunged, regardless of their age, but they would have to prove U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the United States at the time of the offense. According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, each year a few dozen people under the age of 21 are ordered to undergo probation for simple drug possession. CBO expects that the number of additional people who would become eligible for expungement under H.R. 1924 would be similarly small. On that basis, CBO estimates that the administrative costs to expunge their records would not be significant; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

On December 1, 2021, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 2502](#), the Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary



on September 23, 2021. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

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