



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 24, 2018

**H.R. 959**  
**Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2018**

*As passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 23, 2018*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 959 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize several workforce development programs that support the education and training of nurses. The five programs, including loan repayment programs and grants that support schools of nursing, are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$249 million for those programs.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 959 would cost \$1.1 billion over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of authorized amounts. The remaining amounts would be spent after 2023.

Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 959 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 959 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 959 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 550 (health). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the act will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2018 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019- 2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<b>INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Authorization Level	0	249	249	249	249	249	1,247
Estimated Outlays	0	117	205	242	244	244	1,053

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 959 would authorize the appropriation of \$249 million per year over the 2019-2023 period for five programs that support nurse workforce development. That annual amount includes:

- \$87 million for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses who commit to working in an area with a shortage of nurses or as faculty in schools of nursing. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$87 million for these activities.
- \$75 million for grants to graduate programs that train advanced practice nurses. H.R. 959 would expand the list of graduate programs eligible for these grants to include programs that train clinical nurse leaders as well as programs that combine registered nursing and graduate degrees. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$75 million for this program.
- \$42 million for grants to nursing schools and health care facilities that aim to expand nursing education, strengthen the quality of care provided by nurses, and increase retention. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$42 million for this program.
- \$29 million for loan repayment for nursing faculty. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$29 million for this program.
- \$17 million for grants and scholarships for nursing students from diverse backgrounds. In 2018, the Congress appropriated \$17 million for this program.

Based on historical spending for these programs, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 959 would cost about \$1.1 billion over the 2019-2023 period.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS**

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 959 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

## **MANDATES**

H.R. 959 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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