



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 7, 2018

H.R. 6365
Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo Land Claims Act of 2018

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on September 27, 2018*

SUMMARY

H.R. 6365 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million annually over the 2019-2028 period to establish a commission to review petitions on the validity of certain land claims in New Mexico. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6365 would cost \$5 million over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

The bill also would authorize the commission to accept and spend donations. Because enacting H.R. 6365 could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. The bill would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6365 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 6365 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. 6365 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2019- 2023
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the start of 2019. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 6365 would establish the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo Land Grant-Merced Claims Commission, which would be composed of nine members appointed by the President, to review petitions on the validity of certain land claims in New Mexico arising from the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. The bill would direct the commission to conduct hearings for each petition and submit recommendations to the Congress on possible forms of restitution for petitioners. (Settling those claims or providing restitution would require separate legislation; any costs would be attributed to the legislation that provided such authority.)

H.R. 6365 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million annually through 2028 for those activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$5 million over the 2019-2023 period, and an additional \$5 million after 2023.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

H.R. 6365 would authorize the commission to accept and spend donations, which would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts, or reductions in direct spending. Because CBO expects that any donations would be spent soon after they are received, we estimate that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. The bill would not affect revenues.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6365 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. 6365 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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