

H.R. 560, Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	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 -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 560 would allow certain alien (foreign national) workers and investors who reside in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to apply for CNMI resident status, which would enable them to live and work in the CNMI indefinitely. Using data from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Government Accountability Office, CBO estimates that about 3,000 alien workers and investors would be eligible to apply for CNMI resident status.

Aliens who qualify for CNMI resident status under H.R. 560 would not be required to repeatedly renew their immigration status during the next decade. Consequently, the fees that they and their employers pay to DHS would be reduced. Those fees are classified as offsetting receipts (that is, as reductions in direct spending) and are available for spending by DHS upon collection under current law. Because the spending occurs soon after the collection, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.