

**S. 1399, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019**

As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on November 5, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	100	1,037	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
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

S. 1399 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize several grant programs that support the education and training of nurses. The legislation would authorize the following amounts annually from 2020 through 2024:

- \$116 million for the individual student loan repayment program, and
- \$134 million for advanced education nursing grants, workforce diversity grants, and nurse education, practice, quality, and retention grants.

In 2019, \$221 million was appropriated for those programs.

The bill also would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the nurse loan repayment program and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to assess the progress of programs related to enhancing the nursing workforce. On average, the equivalent of about two full-time employees from GAO and one full-time employee from HHS would be required each year over the 2020-2024 period to complete the reports.

Based on historical spending for these programs, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$1,037 million over the 2020-2024 period, assuming appropriation of authorized amounts. The remaining amounts would be spent after 2024.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 550 (health).



**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 1399**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	249	249	249	249	249	1,247
Estimated Outlays	100	208	240	245	245	1,038

On October 16, 2019, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 728](#), the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization of 2019, as reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 24, 2019. The two bills are similar, but S. 1399 includes different authorized amounts and would require evaluations by GAO and HHS. CBO's estimated cost of S. 1399 reflects those differences.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Philippa Haven. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.