

H.R. 2245, CECIL Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

Current law requires people to obtain a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to import or export sport-hunted trophies of species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA defines a sport-hunted trophy as a whole dead animal or a readily recognizable part of an animal. H.R. 2245 would extend that requirement to species listed or proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. In those cases, USFWS would be required to determine, after a public notice and comment period, whether the country where the animal was killed provides for adequate conservation and monitoring of that species.

Using information from USFWS, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would result in a small increase in the agency's workload and costs. (In recent years, the agency has spent around \$1 million annually to review permit applications.) H.R. 2245 also would require applicants to pay all administrative costs associated with permit processing. USFWS charges a fee of \$100 per application; those fees are classified in the federal budget as discretionary offsetting collections. On that basis, we estimate that any additional costs incurred by USFWS under the bill would be offset by increased fees resulting in a negligible net effect on spending subject to appropriation.

H.R. 2245 also would direct the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress on the effectiveness of trophy hunting in supporting international wildlife conservation



efforts. Based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that implementing the provision would cost less than \$500,000; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 2245 could increase revenues and associated direct spending from civil and criminal penalties collected under the ESA. CBO expects that additional violations of the ESA would occur infrequently and we estimate that the net reduction in the deficit would be insignificant over the 2020-2030 period.

H.R. 2245 would impose private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) on individuals who wish to import certain sport-hunted trophies. CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would not exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$168 million in 2020, adjusted annually for inflation) in each year.

The bill would:

- Require individuals to obtain a permit from USFWS to import sport-hunted trophies of species listed or proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA;
- Prohibit individuals from obtaining permits to import lion and elephant trophies from Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe; and
- Require applicants to pay the full cost of processing those permit applications.

Using information from USFWS and industry sources, CBO expects that the number of individuals affected by the mandates would be very small, as would be their compliance costs because the new requirements are similar to USFWS regulations under current law.

H.R. 2245 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Janani Shankaran (for federal costs) and Lilia Ledezma (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.