

At a Glance

H.R. 4957, Native American Child Protection Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 5, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	420	558
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would

- Expand the definition of child abuse under the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act
- Require the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to provide grants to tribal governments and organizations to combat child abuse, child neglect, and family violence affecting tribes
- Raise the cost of an existing mandate on local law enforcement and child protective services agencies by requiring those agencies to file additional reports on child abuse with the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Spending of amounts authorized in the bill

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 4957 would expand the definition of child abuse under the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act to include psychological or verbal abuse that causes serious emotional or mental injury to a child. The bill also would direct the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to carry out programs to combat child abuse, child neglect, and family violence affecting tribes and would authorize appropriations for those programs beginning in 2021.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 4957 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 4957

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program							
Authorization	0	60	60	60	60	60	300
Estimated Outlays	0	39	54	58	59	59	269
National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center							
Authorization	0	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	3	3	3	14
Indian Health Service							
Authorization	0	30	30	30	30	30	150
Estimated Outlays	0	22	28	29	29	29	137
Total Changes							
Authorization	0	93	93	93	93	93	465
Estimated Outlays	0	63	85	90	91	91	420

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4957 will be enacted during fiscal year 2020 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year beginning in 2021. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs and activities. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4957 would cost \$420 million over the 2021-2025 period and \$138 million after 2025.

**Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Protection Program**

H.R. 4957 would direct BIA to establish a program to investigate, treat, and prevent child abuse, child neglect, and family violence affecting tribes. The bill would authorize BIA to provide those services directly or to enter into agreements with tribal agencies to carry out services funded by federal grants. H.R. 4957 would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million annually from 2021 through 2026 for BIA to carry out the program and would require the agency to report to the Congress within two years of enactment on how grantees have used funds awarded under the program.

National Indian Child Resources and Family Services Center

H.R. 4957 would direct BIA to establish a National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center to provide training and technical assistance to tribal governments and federal personnel on how to respond to cases of child abuse, child neglect, and family violence affecting tribes. The bill would direct the agency to create an advisory board, consisting of members from tribal governments and organizations with expertise in those issues to advise the center on how to implement its programs. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million annually from 2021 through 2026 for the operation of the center.

Indian Health Service

H.R. 4957 would direct IHS to establish a grant program for tribes and intertribal consortia to provide treatment to Indians who have been victims of child abuse and neglect. The bill would direct the agency, as part of the grant award process, to encourage the use of treatment services that are culturally appropriate for Indian tribes. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million annually from 2021 through 2026 for IHS to carry out the program and would require the agency to report to the Congress within two years of enactment on how grantees have used funds awarded under the program.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits: None.

Mandates

Current law requires local agencies of child protective services and local law enforcement to report instances of child abuse in Indian country to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). H.R. 4957 would expand the definition of child abuse in Indian country to include verbal and psychological abuse.

The bill would impose an intergovernmental mandate under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) on local law enforcement and local agencies of child protective services because the expanded definition would require those entities to file additional



reports on child abuse with the FBI. CBO estimates the cost of the mandate would be below the annual threshold established in UMRA for the intergovernmental sector (\$84 million in 2020, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 4957 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate Prepared By

Federal Costs: Jon Sperl and Rob Stewart

Mandates: Rachel Austin

Estimate Reviewed By

Kim P. Cawley

Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Director of Budget Analysis