



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 5, 2010

H.R. 3695 **Help Find the Missing Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on January 27, 2010

SUMMARY

H.R. 3695 would authorize the appropriation of \$12.4 million annually over the 2011-2015 period for Department of Justice (DOJ) programs and grants to improve the reporting and recording of information relating to cases involving missing persons and unidentified human remains. In addition, the bill would direct DOJ to upgrade certain databases and prepare reports relating to collecting and analyzing information on missing persons and unidentified human remains.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3695 would cost about \$45 million over the 2011-2015 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3695 would expand an existing intergovernmental mandate, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), that requires state and local law enforcement agencies to share and update information about missing persons under the age of 21. CBO estimates that the costs for those agencies to comply with the reporting requirement would be small and well below the annual threshold for intergovernmental mandates established in UMRA (\$70 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

This bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3695 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011- 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	13	12	12	12	12	63
Estimated Outlays	5	8	10	11	12	46

Note: Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 3695 would authorize the appropriation of \$2.4 million annually over the 2011-2016 period for DOJ to maintain public databases containing records relating to cases involving missing persons and unidentified human remains. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2011-2015 period for DOJ to make grants to law enforcement agencies, offices of medical examiners, and other agencies to improve the reporting of information relating to cases involving missing persons and unidentified human remains.

In addition, the bill would direct DOJ to share information among departmental databases and prepare reports for law enforcement agencies relating to collecting and analyzing data on missing persons and unidentified human remains. Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that it would cost about \$1 million in 2011 and less than \$500,000 annually thereafter to carry out those activities.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3695 will be enacted during fiscal year 2010. We assume that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that spending will follow the historical spending patterns for similar activities.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 3695 would expand an existing intergovernmental mandate, as defined in UMRA, that requires state and local law enforcement agencies to share and update information about missing persons under the age of 21. Under current law, those entities are required to report that information to a federal database; therefore, CBO estimates that the costs for state and local law enforcement agencies to comply with the additional reporting

requirement would be small and well below the annual threshold for intergovernmental mandates established in UMRA (\$70 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill would authorize a grant for state and local agencies to increase the amount of information about unidentified remains and missing adults that is entered into the public system. Assuming appropriation of authorized amounts, those entities would receive \$33 million over the 2011-2015 period. Any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of federal assistance.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

H.R. 3695 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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