



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 28, 2015

H.R. 181
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015
As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on January 21, 2015

SUMMARY

H.R. 181 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million annually over the 2015-2019 period for the Department of Justice to provide grants to state and local governments to improve the investigation and prosecution of child trafficking crimes and to assist victims. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 181 would cost \$18 million over the 2015-2020 period.

We also estimate that the bill would have an insignificant effect on direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the legislation.

H.R. 181 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 181 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						2015-2020
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5	0	25
Estimated Outlays	*	2	3	4	5	4	18

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in the first half of 2015, that the specified amount of \$5 million per year over the 2015-2019 period will be appropriated, and that outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for similar activities.

H.R. 181 would broaden the coverage of current laws against sex trafficking. As a result, the government might be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. Because those prosecuted and convicted under the bill could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues (or direct spending) would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 established budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that the legislation would have an insignificant impact on direct spending and revenues.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 181 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State and local governments would benefit from grants authorized in the bill. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of federal assistance.

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