



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 11, 2016

H.R. 1854
Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015
As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on January 12, 2016

SUMMARY

H.R. 1854 would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million annually over the 2016-2021 period for the Department of Justice to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments to improve mental health services in the criminal justice system. Those grants would include programs to enhance services provided by correctional facilities and programs to assist certain military veterans. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1854 would cost \$113 million over the 2016-2021 period and \$26 million after 2021.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because enacting it would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1854 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 1854 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 impact of H.R. 1854 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						2016-2021
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	20	30	30	30	30	0	140
Estimated Outlays	3	13	20	25	29	23	113

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in the first half of 2016, the specified amount of \$30 million per year through 2020 will be appropriated (except for 2016), and outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for the programs authorized by the legislation. For fiscal year 2016, the Congress appropriated \$10 million for the programs authorized by H.R. 1854; thus, we estimate that implementing the bill would authorize additional funding of \$20 million for 2016.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None

INCREASE IN LONG TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1854 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1854 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments would benefit from grants for mental health services and other activities. Any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 22, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 993, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015, as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on April 30, 2015. The two pieces of legislation are similar. CBO's estimate of the budgetary effects of H.R. 1854 reflects funding already provided for 2016 for the programs authorized by the bill. The cost estimate for S. 993 does not reflect amounts provided in 2016 because the estimate was transmitted before the Congress provided the funding.

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