



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 17, 2017

S. 178

Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on February 9, 2017

SUMMARY

CBO estimates that implementing S. 178 would cost \$21 million over the 2018-2022 period for programs in the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to combat abuse of the elderly, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting the bill could affect revenues and associated direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant in any year and over the 2017-2027 period.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 178 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 178 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 178 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 500 (education, training, employment, and social services) and 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2017- 2022
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
DOJ Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3	15
HHS Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	6	0	0	0	0	6
Estimated Outlays	*	2	2	1	*	6
Total Increases						
Estimated Authorization Level	9	3	3	3	3	21
Estimated Outlays	3	5	5	4	3	21

Notes: DOJ = Department of Justice; HHS = Department of Health and Human Services; * = between zero and \$500,000; components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in 2017, that the necessary funds will be provided each year, and that outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for similar activities.

Department of Justice

S. 178 would direct DOJ to undertake numerous activities to prevent crimes against the elderly and to improve the treatment of elderly victims, including the following:

- Provide training and technical assistance to state and local governments to assist them in investigating, prosecuting, and preventing crimes against the elderly and treating the victims of such crimes;
- Collect data from federal agencies on crimes against the elderly;
- Provide regular training to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the investigation of crimes against the elderly; and
- Prepare reports on issues relating to crimes against the elderly.

Based on an analysis of information from DOJ about the costs to carry out those additional tasks, CBO estimates that it would cost the department about \$3 million annually and \$15 million over the 2018-2022 period.

Department of Health and Human Services

The bill also would require HHS to provide grants to assess the effectiveness and fairness of legal proceedings that result in court-appointed guardianships for elderly people. Those grants, which would be for demonstration projects, would be in addition to other activities supporting elder rights conducted by HHS. Based on the cost of other demonstration projects to support elder rights, CBO estimates that implementing the new provisions would cost HHS about \$6 million over the 2018-2022 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending and revenues. S. 178 would amend federal criminal law to make any assets found in connection with telemarketing fraud against elderly persons subject to seizure by the federal government, upon an individual's prosecution and conviction for such fraud. Proceeds from the sale of such assets are recorded as revenues, deposited into the Assets Forfeiture Fund, and later spent without further appropriation action. Because of the small number of relevant assets likely to be seized, CBO estimates that any additional revenues and associated direct spending would not be significant in any year and over the 2017-2027 period.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 178 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 178 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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