



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 29, 2017

### **H.R. 1096** **Judgment Fund Transparency Act of 2017**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 28, 2017*

H.R. 1096 would require the Department of the Treasury to prepare certain reports regarding payments from the Judgment Fund. The Judgment Fund has a permanent, indefinite appropriation that is available to pay monetary awards against the United States that are judicially and administratively ordered. The legislation would require detailed reporting of specific information for individual claims. Additionally, the bill would prevent payments from the Judgment Fund to state sponsors of terrorism and foreign terrorist organizations.

Most of the provisions of H.R. 1096 would codify and expand on the current practices of the federal government. The Bureau of the Fiscal Service at the Department of the Treasury already administers a search system for payments from the Judgment Fund that reports the name of the defendant agency, the legal citations for each claim, and the liability amounts.

The legislation would add new requirements to report on information that is not currently available, including the name of the plaintiff or claimant and legal counsel, a brief description of the facts that gave rise to the claim, and other information on any payments made to foreign entities on or after January 1, 2016. Based on the cost of providing similar information, CBO expects that any administrative costs to develop and add those additional reporting requirements would total less than \$500,000 annually; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 1096 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jacob Fabian. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.