

**H.R. 4356, Protecting Families of Fallen Servicemembers Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on October 29, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	<b>Yes, Under Threshold</b>
		Contains private-sector mandate?	<b>Yes, Under Threshold</b>

Under current law, service members may terminate telephone, cable, and internet service contracts without penalty if the service member receives orders to move to a location that the service provider does not cover. H.R. 4356 also would allow the spouse or dependent of a service member or reservist who dies while in military service, or who incurs a catastrophic injury or illness, to cancel such contracts without penalty. CBO estimates that H.R. 4356 would not affect the federal budget.

The bill would impose an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate by prohibiting telecommunication providers, including municipal governments, from imposing early termination fees on service members' spouses and dependents, as well as members of the reserves who meet the bill's eligibility requirements. The cost of the mandate would be the revenue lost from cancelled contracts. CBO estimates that the number of reservists, spouses, and dependents eligible under the bill and the average cost of telecommunication contracts would be small. Therefore, the aggregate cost of the mandate would be small and fall well below the annual thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$82 million and \$164 million in 2019, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Logan Smith (for federal costs) and Brandon Lever (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.