

At a Glance

H.R. 1980, Smithsonian Women’s History Museum Act

As reported by the Committee on House Administration on November 13, 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	38	375
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would

- Establish a women’s history museum in the Smithsonian Institution
- Create a council to make recommendations to the Board of Regents on planning and design of the museum

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Authorizing appropriations for the Smithsonian Institution to build and operate the museum

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.

Bill Summary

H.R. 1980 would authorize the appropriations of whatever amounts are necessary for the Smithsonian Institution to plan, construct, and operate a museum dedicated to women's history. The bill would establish a council within the Smithsonian Institution to advise the Board of Regents on museum operations, acquire artifacts for and create exhibitions, and raise funds for the museum. Additionally, the bill would permit the Smithsonian Institution to appoint a Director to manage the museum and carry out educational programs related to women's history. H.R. 1980 would allow the Board of Regents to select a site for the museum, and design and construct it. Fifty percent of the total costs of constructing the museum would be financed with nonfederal funds.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 1980 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1980

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars										2020-2024	2020-2029
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		
Planning and initial staff												
Estimated Authorization	1	3	5	10	13	15	18	20	25	30	32	140
Estimated Outlays	*	3	5	9	12	14	17	19	24	29	30	133
Construction												
Estimated Authorization	0	0	2	3	22	22	82	78	60	26	27	295
Estimated Outlays	0	0	*	2	6	14	32	57	70	61	8	242
Total Changes												
Estimated Authorization	1	3	7	13	35	37	100	98	85	56	59	435
Estimated Outlays	*	3	5	11	18	28	49	76	94	90	37	375

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between zero and \$500,000.

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1980 will be enacted at the beginning of calendar year 2020 and that the site for the museum would be chosen in 2021. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1980 would cost \$375 million over the 2020-2029 period.

Based on information from the Smithsonian Institution, CBO estimates that the museum would be around 350,000 square feet and construction would cost \$242 million. This size is close to other Smithsonian history museums. In addition, CBO estimates that staff, planning,

and creation of exhibits and educational programs, and museum operations would cost \$133 million over the 2020-2029 period, based on initial operating costs at similar museums.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits: None.

Mandates: None.

Previous CBO Estimate

On October 7, 2019, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1980](#), the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, as introduced on March 28, 2019. At that time, CBO estimated that the museum would cost \$190 million over the 2020-2029 period, because we assumed the size of the museum would be under 100,000 square feet. That assumption was based on the report to the Congress from the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum and on information from the Smithsonian Institution. The current cost estimate for H.R. 1980 reflects updated information on the size of the museum from the Smithsonian Institution.

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