

H.R. 4331, Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on December 18, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	59	127
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	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?	Yes, Under Threshold
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 4331 would authorize appropriations for assistance to Tibetans and authorize the Administration to impose sanctions on Chinese government officials. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost a total of \$59 million over the 2021-2024 period and \$127 million over the next 10 years, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO further estimates that imposing sanctions under H.R. 4331 would have insignificant effects on direct spending and revenues.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

The bill would authorize the appropriation of about \$27 million each year over the 2021-2025 period for several programs that benefit Tibetans (see Table 1). In each year of that period, H.R. 4331 would authorize appropriations of:

- Not less than \$17 million to preserve Tibetan language and culture; strengthen Tibetan governance and institutions; and promote sustainable development, education, and conservation;
- Not less than \$7.4 million for international broadcasting programs in the Tibetan language;
- \$1.25 million for scholarships and exchange programs for Tibetan students; and
- Not less than \$1 million for the Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 4331

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Foreign Assistance						
Estimated Authorization	0	17	17	17	17	68
Estimated Outlays	0	*	4	8	12	24
International Broadcasting						
Estimated Authorization	0	7	7	7	7	30
Estimated Outlays	0	6	7	7	7	27
Scholarships and Exchange Programs						
Authorization	0	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	1	1	4
Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues						
Estimated Authorization	0	1	1	1	1	4
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	4
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization	0	27	27	27	27	107
Estimated Outlays	0	7	13	17	22	59

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

Direct Spending and Revenues

H.R. 4331 would authorize the Administration to impose sanctions on Chinese government officials who interfere with the selection of the Dalai Lama. Those sanctions would deny affected people entry into the United States and would block transactions in their assets and property that are in the United States or come under the control of U.S. persons. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase the number of people who would be denied visas by the Department of State and the number who would be subject to civil or criminal penalties for violating the sanctions. Most visa fees are retained by the department and spent without further appropriation, but some fees are deposited in the Treasury as revenues. Penalties also are recorded as revenues, and a portion of those penalties can be spent without further appropriation. Because CBO expects that very few additional people would be affected, CBO estimates the bill's enactment would have insignificant effects on both revenues and direct spending.

Mandates

By imposing sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for interfering with the selection of the next Dalai Lama, H.R. 4331 could prohibit individuals or entities in the United States from engaging in activities that would otherwise be permitted under current law, such as accessing property that would be frozen by the sanctions. Such a prohibition is a mandate as

defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The cost of the mandate would be any income that U.S. entities lose because they no longer have access to the property in question or because they may no longer engage in transactions prohibited by the bill. Because the sanctions focus only on persons in foreign countries who have committed violations outlined in the bill, CBO expects that the number of individuals or entities in the United States that could be affected by the legislation would be small and the loss of income from any incremental restrictions imposed by the bill would be small as well. Therefore, CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of the mandates would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$164 million in 2019, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 4331 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate Prepared By

Federal Costs: Sunita D'Monte

Mandates: Brandon Lever

Estimate Reviewed By

David Newman

Chief, Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Cost Estimates Unit

Susan Willie

Chief, Mandates Unit

Leo Lex

Deputy Director of Budget Analysis