

H.R. 3977, Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 5, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

Under current law, federal law enforcement officials prosecute a range of crimes on tribal land that involve domestic violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, and related crimes. In a subset of those cases related to domestic and dating violence, tribal governments are concurrently authorized under federal law to prosecute defendants, provided that the alleged victim or defendant is a member of the tribe or that the defendant resides in or works in Indian country.

H.R. 3977 would expand the scope of crimes that tribal governments may prosecute on tribal land to include sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, and other related conduct that constitutes a crime under a tribe's own laws. The bill also would authorize tribal governments to exercise jurisdiction over a non-Indian defendant regardless of whether the defendant resides on the tribes' land; is employed on the tribes' land; or is a spouse, dating partner, or intimate partner of an Indian who resides on the tribes' land.

CBO expects that, under the legislation, some tribal governments would expand law enforcement efforts within their jurisdictions to combat additional types of crime and would prosecute more criminal cases.

Tribal law enforcement agencies receive funding from several sources, including federal grants administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Although H.R. 3977 would not authorize additional funding to support activities



authorized in the bill, CBO expects tribal law enforcement agencies would rely on these grants to cover any additional costs they incur. Those grants are provided annually and are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Using information provided by BIA and DOJ, CBO expects that federal agencies would incur some additional administrative costs related to providing technical assistance to tribes that undertake expanded law enforcement efforts. However, CBO estimates that those costs would not be significant over the 2020-2025 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.