

**H.R. 1620, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021, as posted on the House Rules Committee website on March 8, 2021**

**Estimated Budgetary Effects**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2021-2026	2021-2031	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031			
<b>Increases in Direct Spending Outlays</b>														
<b>TITLE VII: Economic Security for Victims</b>														
703. Entitlement to unemployment compensation for victims of sexual and other harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	11
<b>Increases in Revenues</b>														
<b>TITLE VII: Economic Security for Victims</b>														
703. Entitlement to unemployment compensation for victims of sexual and other harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking	0	0	*	*	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
<b>Estimated Increase in Budget Deficit</b>														
Effect on the Deficit	0	1	1	1	1	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	6

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Components may not sum to totals because of rounding. Estimated budget authority equals outlays.

Estimates relative to CBO's February 2021 baseline.

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

Section 703 of H.R. 1620 would expand eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits to people who voluntarily separate from work because they are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sexual or other harassment. Most states already have similar policies or regulations for victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment. Using data from states with similar policies, CBO estimates that enacting this section would increase direct spending by \$11 million over the 2021-2031 period. Because of its effects on balances in state unemployment accounts, enacting this title also would increase revenues by \$6 million over the 2021-2031 period, CBO estimates.

The bill also would broaden the coverage of existing crimes relating to violence against women. Enacting the legislation could increase collections of criminal fines for violations of these offenses. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and subsequently spent without further appropriation. CBO estimates that any additional collections and associated spending would not be significant because of the relatively small number of additional cases likely to be affected.

H.R. 1620 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by preempting state laws governing eligibility for unemployment insurance. The bill would preempt any state or local law that prevents an individual who voluntarily separates from work from receiving unemployment benefits if that separation is due to sexual or other harassment, domestic violence, or related crimes. Complying with this new minimum standard would require some states to offer unemployment benefits to more individuals. According to information published by the Department of Labor, most states already offer benefits to individuals who leave employment on these grounds, particularly in cases of sexual or other harassment. Because the mandate would affect a few states and a small number of unemployment insurance recipients, CBO estimates the cost of the mandate would not exceed the intergovernmental threshold established in UMRA (\$85 million in 2021, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill would expand a prohibition on the sale of firearms to include sales to individuals convicted of a misdemeanor crime of stalking or who are subject to certain restraining orders. By limiting such sales, the bill would impose a private-sector mandate on firearm sellers. Because the number of additional individuals restricted from purchases and the number of affected sales would be small, CBO estimates the cost of the mandate would not exceed the private-sector threshold established in UMRA (\$170 million in 2021, adjusted annually for inflation).

Finally, H.R. 1620 would specifically authorize the appropriation of a little more than \$5 billion over the 2022-2026 period. In addition to those specified authorizations, other provisions of the bill would require discretionary appropriations to be implemented. CBO has not estimated the spending that would result if those appropriations were provided.