

**S. 421, Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act of 2021**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 24, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	2	151	not estimated
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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

Under current law, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds projects to connect, expand, or repair public water systems on Indian reservations within the Upper Missouri River Basin and the Upper Rio Grande Basin. For each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022, \$20 million is authorized to be appropriated for that purpose; however, no funds have been appropriated to date.

S. 421 would expand that program to include projects on off-reservation sites that serve Indian Tribes and 10 additional projects in the Columbia River Basin. The bill also would require EPA to fund 100 percent of project costs. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2021 through 2024 for the program.

Using information from EPA, CBO estimates that funding qualifying projects would cost \$148 million over the 2021-2026 period and \$12 million after 2026. EPA also would incur administrative costs to establish and operate the program. Using information from EPA about the resources needed to operate similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would require about four employees and would cost an additional \$3 million over the 2021-2026 period.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

**Table 1.  
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 421**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2021-2026
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program							
Authorization <sup>a</sup>	30	30	50	50	0	0	160
Estimated Outlays	2	16	26	39	41	24	148
EPA Administration							
Estimated Authorization	*	*	*	1	1	1	3
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	1	1	1	3
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	30	30	50	51	1	1	163
Estimated Outlays	2	16	26	40	42	25	151

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

a. The bill would authorize the annual appropriation of \$50 million for 2021 through 2024 for the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program. However, \$20 million is already authorized for that program for 2021 and 2022. Thus, the authorization in this table shows the difference between those amounts for those years.

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