

**S. 2991, Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on November 3, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	<b>No</b>	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	<b>No</b>
		Contains private-sector mandate?	<b>No</b>
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 2991 would codify and expand the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) within Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). CCHT is responsible for coordinating DHS efforts to combat human trafficking through law enforcement efforts and victim assistance programs. The bill would require DHS to ensure CCHT is staffed with at least 45 employees in various positions, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 2991 also would require that the director of CCHT develop a strategy to improve the effectiveness of its programs and to report to the Congress within one year of enactment about legislation that would be needed to facilitate an end to human trafficking. Finally, the bill would allow DHS to transfer any other department resources dedicated to combatting human trafficking to CCHT.

S. 2991 would authorize \$14 million to carry out the bill’s requirements. CCHT currently has 21 full-time employees funded by ICE. Furthermore, DHS has seven additional employees dedicated to combatting human trafficking, for a total of 28 full-time department employees that would be allocated to the expanded CCHT under the bill. Using information from ICE about the cost of similar programs, and assuming S. 2991 is enacted in mid-fiscal year 2022, CBO estimates it would cost approximately \$1 million in 2022 and between \$4 million and



\$5 million each year thereafter above current funding amounts for DHS activities to counter human trafficking to hire the remaining 17 employees and implement the other requirements of the bill. In total, CBO estimates the agency would require \$18 million over the 2022-2026 period to implement S. 2991, or \$4 million more than the authorized amount. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

To develop the strategy under S. 2991, the bill would require each subagency of DHS to share information and data with CCHT. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a subagency of DHS, is allowed to use fees to cover its operating costs that can be spent without further appropriations action, which is classified as direct spending. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by USCIS would be negligible because the agency could adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lindsay Wylie. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.