

H.R. 5721, Rape Kit Backlog Progress Act of 2023

As reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 26, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars		2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
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	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?		No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?		No	Mandate Effects	
			Contains intergovernmental mandate? No	
			Contains private-sector mandate? No	
* = between zero and \$500,000.				

H.R. 5721 would require applicants for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on their efforts to track and test sexual assault kits. Under the JAG program, DOJ awards grants to state, territorial, local, and tribal governments to support a variety of criminal justice and law enforcement activities. The bill would require those entities, as part of their grant application, to report on whether they have completed an inventory of sexual assault kits in their possession, including whether the kits have been tested and the victim has been notified of the results. Under the bill, an applicant would be ineligible for a grant if DOJ determined it has not completed the activities in the report. Additionally, H.R. 5721 would require DOJ to publish an annual report, beginning two years after enactment, on applicants' compliance with the bill's requirements.

Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that DOJ would need two people annually to review applicants' reports, make eligibility determinations, and publish the annual report. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5721 would cost \$2 million over the 2024-2028 period. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



In fiscal year 2023, the Congress appropriated \$771 million for the JAG program. CBO expects that state, territorial, local, and tribal governments would try to comply with the requirements in the bill to maintain their eligibility for grants. However, if some entities were unable or unwilling to comply and DOJ determined they were ineligible, spending on the program could decline. CBO has no basis to estimate the magnitude of that reduction.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeremy Crimm. The estimate was reviewed by Emily Stern, Senior Adviser for Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Swagel", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office