

S. 1723, Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 7, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	7	82	90
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

S. 1723 would establish a commission and advisory committees to document and remedy the effects of the federal Indian boarding school policies, under which the government forcibly removed children from their families and placed them in federally run boarding schools. Nonfederal employees would be compensated and reimbursed for travel expenses. Specifically, the bill would:

- Establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, consisting of five members and lasting up to six years. The commission would work to locate, analyze, preserve records, and identify unmarked graves related to Indian boarding schools; hold public hearings; and report on its findings.
- Create a federal advisory committee, a Native American advisory committee, and a survivors subcommittee.
- Apply the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to human remains and funerary objects located on federal land or land managed or curated by a federal agency.

The estimated budgetary effects of S. 1723 are shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).



**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 1723**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2024-2029
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Authorization	15	15	15	15	15	15	90
Estimated Outlays	7	15	15	15	15	15	82

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1723 also would have insignificant effects on direct spending and revenues.

S. 1723 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually for the commission. Based on spending patterns for similar activities and assuming appropriation of the specified amounts from 2024 through 2029, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$82 million over the 2024-2029 period and \$8 million after 2029.

S. 1723 would authorize the commission to issue subpoenas to obtain documents, pending review by the Attorney General. The commission may apply to a district court requesting an order to comply with a subpoena. Failure to comply with a district court order may result in penalties; such penalties are recorded as revenues. CBO estimates that any additional revenues collected would total less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2034 period because the number of violations would probably be small.

The bill also would authorize the commission to solicit donations and other funds from the private sector, which could be spent without further appropriation; such receipts are recorded as reductions in direct spending. Because donations would probably be spent soon after their receipt, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending over the 2024-2034 period would be negligible.

On February 22, 2024, CBO transmitted a revised version of this estimate, which was originally transmitted on February 20, 2024. The revised estimate clarifies that any penalties would be assessed by district courts rather than by the commission. The estimated budgetary effects of the legislation are unchanged.

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

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