

At a Glance

H.R. 7227, Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on June 13, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	-90	-90
Revenues	0	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	-90	-90
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	70	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 zero and \$500,000.

The bill would

- Establish a commission and advisory committees to document and remedy the effects of the federal Indian boarding school policies
- 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
- Rescind \$90 million in funding from the Indian Health Service (IHS)

Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from

- Spending for activities conducted by the commission and advisory committees
- Rescinding IHS funds
- Transferring or reburying human remains and funerary objects

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 7227 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.
- Rescind \$90 million in funding from the Indian Health Service.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effects of H.R. 7227 are shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services) and 550 (health).

Table 1. Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 7227													
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars												2024- 2029	2024- 2034
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034			
Decreases in Direct Spending													
Estimated Budget Authority	-90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-90	-90
Estimated Outlays	0	-50	-40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-90	-90
Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation													
Estimated Authorization	0	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	75	90
Estimated Outlays	0	10	15	15	15	15	15	5	0	0	0	70	90

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7227 would increase revenues by less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2034 period.



Basis of Estimate

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted late in fiscal year 2024 and that the authorized amounts will be available each year beginning in 2025.

Direct Spending and Revenues

H.R. 7227 would rescind \$90 million of the unobligated balances made available by section 11001, Indian Health Service, of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. CBO estimates that executing the rescission would reduce direct spending by \$90 million over the 2024-2034 period.

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 of this provision on direct spending over the 2024-2034 period would be negligible.

In addition, the bill 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.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 7227 also would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually for the commission. Based on spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$70 million over the 2024-2029 period and \$20 million after 2029.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 1.

Increase in Long-Term Net Direct Spending and Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7227 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

Mandates

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.



Previous CBO Estimate

On February 22, 2024, CBO transmitted a revised [cost estimate for S.1723](#), the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. Both bills would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually for the Truth and Healing Commission and supporting committees and staff. H.R. 7227 also would rescind \$90 million from funds that were appropriated for the Indian Health Service; S. 1723 would not rescind those funds.

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