



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 27, 2009

### **H.R. 1913** **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 23, 2009*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1913 would establish certain hate crimes as new federal offenses and would authorize the appropriation of:

- \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for DOJ to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes;
- Such sums as may be necessary for DOJ to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments to address hate crimes committed by juveniles; and
- Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2011 for DOJ and the Department of the Treasury to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1913 would cost about \$10 million over the 2010-2014 period. The legislation could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant in any year.

H.R. 1913 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1913 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010- 2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	10	*	0	0	0	10
Estimated Outlays	2	3	2	2	1	10

Note: \* = less than \$500,000.

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2010. Based on spending for similar activities in recent years, CBO estimates that the bill’s authorization for grants to address hate crimes committed by juveniles would cost an additional \$5 million in fiscal year 2010—the same amount that the bill would specifically authorize for grants to state and local governments to combat hate crimes in general. We assume that the necessary amounts (a total of \$10 million for 2010) will be appropriated by the start of that fiscal year and that spending will follow the historical rates for similar grant programs.

Based on trends in federal investigations and prosecutions in recent years, CBO expects that the new hate crimes established by the bill would apply to a small number of cases each year. Thus, any increase in costs to DOJ, the Department of the Treasury, and the federal judiciary for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would be less than \$500,000 annually for 2010 through 2011, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1913 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1913 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Assuming the appropriation of authorized and estimated amounts, those governments would receive \$10 million to investigate and prosecute hate crimes. The bill also would authorized the Attorney General to provide technical, forensic, and prosecutorial assistance to those governments. Any costs to nonfederal entities would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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