



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 19, 1999

### **H.R. 609**

#### **A bill to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the act to apples**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on February 10, 1999*

H.R. 609 would amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to exclude pears and rename it the Export Apple Act. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 609 would have no significant budgetary impact.

Under current law, the Secretary of Agriculture must establish quality standards for exported apples and pears. The Secretary also is responsible for overseeing mandatory inspections and certification of apples and pears prior to export. Under H.R. 609, these requirements would no longer apply to pears but would continue for apples.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for carrying out current requirements. States collect inspection and certification fees from exporters and pay a small percentage of the fees to AMS for overseeing inspections. AMS indicates that collections of fees for pear inspections are small. While H.R. 609 would stop mandatory federal inspections of pears for exports, it is likely that voluntary federal inspections and mandatory or voluntary state inspections would continue. The costs incurred and fees collected by AMS would probably not change significantly. Because H.R. 609 could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any such impact would be negligible for each year.

H.R. 609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Craig Jagger. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.