



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 15, 1999

**H.R. 858
District of Columbia Court Employees'
Whistleblower Protection Act of 1999**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on March 10, 1999

H.R. 858 would amend District of Columbia statutes to extend protection from retaliatory action to court personnel who disclose seemingly unlawful or fraudulent practices. Protection would also extend to D.C. court personnel who participate in an investigation into alleged violations of law or refuse to participate in activities that are fraudulent or unlawful. Under the bill, court employees could seek relief from violations by filing civil claims in either the Superior Court of the District of Columbia or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 858 would have little or no effect on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 858 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it would impose enforceable duties on the District of Columbia with regard to the treatment of court personnel. CBO estimates that the costs of complying with this mandate would be minimal. H.R. 858 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter (for federal costs), and Susan Sieg (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.