



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 23, 1999

S. 632 **Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act of 1999**

As introduced on March 16, 1999

SUMMARY

S. 632 would authorize appropriations of \$27.6 million annually for fiscal years 2000 through 2004 to support poison prevention efforts and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers. The authorized appropriations would be \$2 million per year for the establishment of a national toll-free number to improve access to regional poison control centers; \$600,000 per year to establish a nationwide media campaign on poison prevention and the availability of poison control resources; and \$25 million per year for grants to certified regional poison control centers.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enacting S. 632 would result in additional discretionary spending of \$5 million in 2000 and \$112 million over the 2000-2004 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The legislation does not contain any private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 632 is shown in the following table. CBO assumes that all amounts authorized in S. 632 would be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow the historical spending patterns for disease prevention programs.

Several studies suggest that use of poison control centers reduces spending for treatment of drug interactions and other types of poisoning. Thus, increasing the number of poison control centers could reduce spending by Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health insurance programs (as well as spending by private health insurance plans). However, CBO cannot estimate the amount of such savings.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Budget Authority	0	28	28	28	28	28
Estimated Outlays	0	5	25	27	27	28

The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 632 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. Poison control centers operated by state, municipal or tribal governments would be eligible to receive grants if they meet matching and maintenance of effort requirements and if they do not use the grants to supplant existing funds.

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